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GEORGE THE THIRD

HIS COURT

AND FAMILY.

"HIS LIFE A LESSON TO THE LAND HE SWAYED."

A NEW EDITION.

IN TWO VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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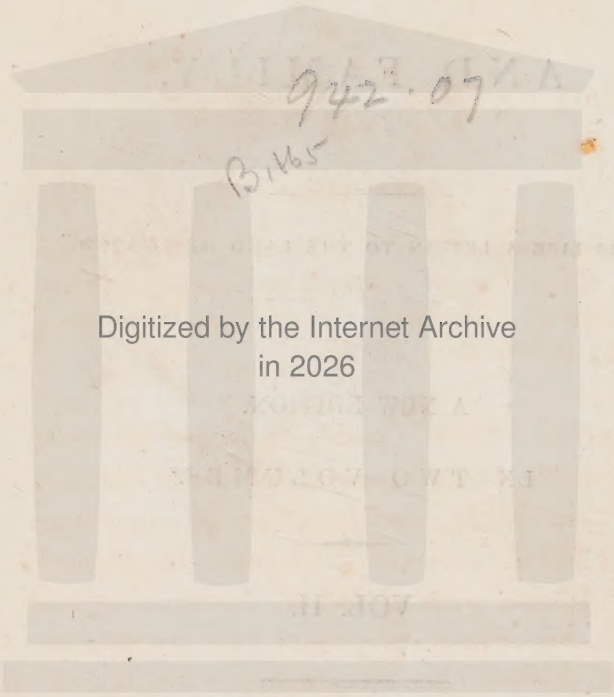

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GEORGE THE THIRD,

HIS COURT, AND FAMILY.

SECTION V.

1781—1790.

First Appearance of Pitt and Sheridan.—Royal Anecdotes, military, naval, political, and domestic.—Encouragement of Literature.—Attempted Assassinations.—Illness, and Recovery, &c. &c.

THE year 1781 was remarkable in parliamentary history, in the first appearance of Pitt and Sheridan in the lower house; and both then in opposition: but Fox had for some time been before the public.

The King's personal dislike, however, against Mr. Fox was of long standing, and for two reasons; first, his personal character; and secondly, his violent opposition to all the measures of the American war: but, as yet, he had not particularly shewn it. The King's command of himself, indeed, under all political squabbles, or military reverses, was highly honorable to his personal character; and of this he exhibited a remarkable instance, on the arrival of

intelligence of Lord Cornwallis's surrender at York Town, which may be said to have given the final blow to all his hopes of retaining the sovereignty of the American colonies. On the day of its arrival, a political party dined with Lord George Germain, who had received the intelligence, and despatched it to His Majesty, from whom a note shortly afterwards was brought to the minister, who observed to Lord Walsingham: "The King writes just as he always does, except that I observe he has omitted to mark the hour and the minute of his writing, with his usual precision."

The letter is stated to have been of the following import: "I have received, with sentiments of the deepest concern, the communication which Lord George Germain has made me of the unfortunate result of the operations in Virginia. I particularly lament it, on account of the consequences connected with it, and the difficulties which it may produce in carrying on the public business, or in repairing such a misfortune. But I trust that neither Lord George Germain, nor any member of the cabinet, will suppose that it makes the smallest alteration in those principles of my conduct which have directed me in past time, and which will always continue to animate me under every event, in the prosecution of the present contest."

It has been stated by a recent biographer, who saw the royal note, that as not a sentiment of despondency or of despair was to be found in the

letter, so the very hand-writing itself indicated composure of mind, with every calmness, dignity, and self-command.

An instance happened this year, which shewed the attention the King always paid to the services and rewards of the army. Lord Amherst, then commander-in-chief, carried him a packet of military commissions to be signed; and the King, first looking over the list, observed one appointed captain over an old lieutenant. "He cannot purchase," said his lordship: but something in the name struck the King, and before he signed the commissions, he turned to one of many large folios, which are all in his own hand-writing, and presently finding the name of the officer, with some memorandum of his private life very much to his credit, he immediately ordered him to be promoted to the vacant company.

Indeed, we may also add here, that the King took as much pleasure in noticing the merits of the subaltern as of the general officer, as was evinced by his frequent attentions to Major Topham, when only adjutant of the First Regiment of Life Guards, he having converted that heavy ill-disciplined corps into a very good one, and prepared it for its subsequent gallant exploits in the field, instead of being subjected to Swift's illnatured remark, that the Guards were good for nothing but to drink the children's milk, and kiss the nursery maids.

Topham was at that period exhibited in the print shops as the tip-top adjutant.

His Majesty not only often inspected his guards, but even condescended sometimes to put them through different evolutions. It is recorded of him, that one day, after trying some manœuvres, he requested a Prussian officer, of high rank, to shew a mode which he spoke of as more effective. This was done; but the King was not satisfied with the result—said it was very well; but that he liked his own way best.

In the distribution of honors, the King never forgot his own personal feelings, though he sometimes granted to political solicitation what was by no means agreeable to himself. Indeed, in one instance, he is said to have yielded a baronetcy for a jeu d'esprit. The late Dr. Elliot had never been a favorite; and when Lord George Germain requested His Majesty to confer the title on that physician, the King manifested much unwillingness, saying, at length, "But, if I do, he shall not be my physician." "No, sir," replied his lordship, "he shall be your majesty's baronet, and my physician!" This excited the royal smile, and the bloody hand was added to the doctor's arms.

The King was always mindful of his promises; and this year he conferred the bishopric of Winchester on Lord North's brother, then Bishop of Worcester, in compliance with an engagement pledged to Lord North a few years before, obtained under circumstances which display a little of the general system of court intrigue. Lord North had

been particularly anxious to procure the see of Winchester for his brother, and took a singular method of obtaining it, by asking for him the archiepiscopal mitre of York, on the demise of Dr. Drummond. He well knew that the King intended to confer this dignity upon the Bishop of Chester, Dr. Markham, as a reward for the particular care which he had taken of the Prince of Wales's education; he asked it, therefore, expecting a refusal, but still appeared to use the privilege of a prime minister in urging his claim. His Majesty, as he was well aware, continued resolute; and the premier, as if on a forlorn hope, said, "I hope then your Majesty will have no objection to translate him to Winchester, when that see may become vacant." To this the King assented; and the death of Dr. Thomas, shortly after, completed the arrangement.*

As the anecdote is told, it shews that the King would not yield to his minister, where his own sense of right and wrong stood in the way. As for Lord North, it must be owned that he cannot be accused of family aggrandisement. He was sparing of honors to all; and if his financial management was careless, it was never profuse.

On the expected arrival of the British North Sea

* Bishop North seems to have met with earlier episcopal promotion than has hitherto fallen to the lot of any other Protestant prelate: but his conduct through life fully justified it. He was Dean of Canterbury before the age of twenty-nine; Bishop of Coventry at thirty-three.

fleet, after the action off the Dogger Bank, the King determined to pay a visit to the gallant Hyde Parker; and accordingly, on the seventeenth of September, he and the Prince of Wales, embarking in their respective yachts, proceeded from Greenwich, receiving the usual salutes from the different forts, dock-yards, and ships, as they passed, and anchored in Sea Reach about four in the afternoon.

At five, the next morning, they got under weigh, and proceeded into the Medway, anchoring off Blackstakes about nine, from whence they went on shore to Sheerness, to visit the dock-yard and new fortifications. At noon they returned to their yachts, and proceeded towards the Nore, at the very moment when Parker's squadron were coming to an anchor.

The vice-admiral, after the usual salutes, went on board the royal yacht, where he had the honor of dining with His Majesty; after which the King and Prince went on board the Fortitude, the flag ship, when the royal standard was hoisted, the whole fleet saluting with twenty-one guns each.

His Majesty then retired to the great cabin, where the captains and officers of the squadron were graciously received, and had the honor of kissing the royal hand: after which the King and Prince visited all parts of the ship; and sailed for Chatham the same evening.

The public were surprised that the King did not confer some mark of distinction upon the admiral;

but it was said, that although he expressed a wish to do so, the veteran seaman refused it, on the plea that his victory was only a drawn battle, which he attributed to his want of sufficient force, through the misconduct of the admiralty.

On the thirtieth of December, the youthful Bishop of Osnaburgh left Buckingham House, accompanied by Colonel Greville, on his way to the continent, the King intending that he should enjoy the advantages of foreign travel, and a Prussian military education.

This arrangement, however, was much blamed by factious partisans at the time, as if it had been a dereliction of parental duty; but the fact is, that nothing but a sense of propriety could have produced it, for it is well known that nothing could be more affecting than the parting between his royal highness and the other members of his august family. Both their majesties wept severely; and the Prince of Wales was so much affected at being now deprived, for so long an expected period, of the sole companion of his youth, that he was unable to give vent to his feelings by words, and could only express them by tears, which burst from him in spite of his manly resolution to restrain them.

Indeed, we can illustrate this, by an anecdote, on good authority, that, very soon after the Dukes of York and Clarence went abroad, His Majesty was talking jocosely with a Scottish lady, about her native country. On a sudden she observed

that he became absorbed in thought; and supposing him reflecting upon something that had been said in conversation, remarked, "Your majesty, I presume, is thinking of my country." He paused for a few moments; and dropping a tear, said, "I was intreating God to protect and bless my dear boys."

The close attention of the King to business, and his strict temperance, were at this period extremely remarkable. In all things he was indefatigable; and he has rode on horseback to town to a levee or a council under the heaviest rain; and, alighting at Buckingham House, gone to St. James's in a chair previous to changing his dress. There has he spoken to every individual in a crowded circle, and afterwards spent the entire day, until five or six o'clock, in presiding at a privy council, or in private audiences, abstaining from all refreshment, except, perhaps, a dish of tea, and a slice of bread and butter, which he has eaten, walking up and down the apartment, in waiting for his travelling carriage, to return to his family and domestic circle.

His very domesticated manners, at this period, are well delineated by the late amiable Mrs. Delany, who describes him as mixing in the most friendly and familiar way with the individuals honored by invitations to the Queen's tea parties and concerts. On one of these occasions, when the Princess Mary, copying the affability of her royal parents, took Mrs. Delany, on her arrival, by the left hand, the Princess Sophia and Prince Octavius doing the

same with her right, the King nodded and smiled upon her infant conductors, bidding them lead her up to the Queen, who stood in the middle of the room.

During the concert, His Majesty dropped the king, took a chair, in the easiest manner, by his venerable guest, talking familiarly about Handel's music, and ordered the pieces which she expressed a preference to.

1782.

The King's cool manner upon the most important political occasions was most particularly manifested on the nineteenth of March, 1782, when Lord North, apprehensive of an unfavorable division in the House of Commons, actually sent a messenger to Windsor with a note inclosing his resignation. The King received this important communication just as he was mounting his horse for a hunting party. He read the note, put it calmly into his pocket, and mounted his hunter, but stopped, on a page running after him to say, that the premier's courier waited for an answer. His Majesty, without hurry, or the slightest agitation, replied—"Tell him that I shall be in town to-morrow morning, and will then give Lord North an answer;" then, turning to the Duke of Dorset and Lord Hinchinbrook, he calmly said, "Lord North has sent me in his resignation, but I shall not accept it."

An interview did take place the ensuing day, which lasted an hour and a half; after which, the minister went down to the house and declared his resignation. It is needless to detail the personal trouble which His Majesty had in forming a new ministry, particularly when Lord Shelburne actually refused power, unless the Marquis of Rockingham were prime minister, to whom he sent the next day. The Marquis accepted the office, but refused to allow Lord Stormont to remain in power, though he consented to Lord Thurlow's retaining the chancellorship; two points on which the King had been particularly anxious. Fox also came in as secretary of state—a measure by no means palatable; and the whole ministry, indeed, made such a heterogeneous mixture of parties, that it could have but little chance of holding long together.

All this was personally distressing to His Majesty, particularly as Burke's bill, of reform in the royal household, deprived the monarch of many persons of very high rank, to whom he had long been habituated about his court. Indeed, that famous bill never performed one-tenth part of its parent's promises, though it produced much inconvenience, particularly in the suppression of the Jewel Office; so that when His Majesty went to the House of Peers to prorogue parliament, on the eleventh of July, there being no master of the jewels, and the lord steward and lord chamberlain having no authority, it became necessary for the home secretary of state

to issue an order, by which the crown and other regalia were actually removed from the Tower in a hackney-coach, under the care of the police.

It was observed of the King's birth-day this year, that there was a novelty in its appearance which gave it a singular character. Not a face was to be seen in the circle which had ever been seen there before. The new ministers brought together a new company; and as that administration comprehended almost all the young and splendid part of the nobility, the drawing-room was infinitely more superb than it had been for many years before. There was more beauty and lustre in the circle, though perhaps not much more happiness in the royal bosom, as we may readily suppose, after such political turmoil as he must have gone through in the repeated changes of administration, until the death of the Marquis of Rockingham, on the second of July, brought in Lord Shelburne, as first lord of the treasury, and Mr. Pitt as chancellor of the exchequer — an arrangement followed up soon after by a general pacification.

Yet, amidst these busy scenes, His Majesty was not neglectful of science; for it was during this year that he took under his immediate protection the celebrated Herschel, appointing him his own private astronomer, with a house at Slough, and a pension. It must not be forgotten that the penetrating telescope of Dr. Herschel owes its powers and its completion to the munificence of the King: and whatever we know of the Georgium Sidus, of the lesser

satellites of Saturn, of the celestial nebulæ, and of other astronomical phenomena, must be attributed to the avowed zeal for the advancement of science, that honoured, while it gratified, the monarch who entertained it. Herschel in the preceding year had discovered the Georgium Sidus to be a planet; and, though some foreigners chose to adopt another name, we must not omit the very handsome compliment paid to His Majesty on this subject by a French astronomer.

Mr. Bude, of Berlin, not approving of the name Georgium Sidus, thought proper to give the appellation of Uranus to the new planet; but La Lande, astronomer-royal at Paris, even in a time of warfare, acted a more noble part, observing in one of his works—"the giving the name of Uranus to the planet of M. Herschel is an act of ingratitude to the author of that noble discovery, and an affront to that august and munificent patron of astronomy, the King of Great Britain; whose name ought to be preferred to every other, if that of the author had not a still more forcible claim to our acknowledgments."

Soon after this, La Lande visited London; and, on being introduced to the King, thanked him for the liberal patronage he had afforded to his favorite science, when he received the following memorable answer: "Is it not far better than spending money for the purpose of setting men to murder each other?" On the twentieth of August this year, His

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCE ALFRED,

BORN SEPT.R 22: 1780. __ DIED, AUG.T 20: 1782.

Majesty met with his first family affliction of the loss of a child, in the death of Prince Alfred, little more than two years old.

1783.

In this year terminated a war, which had been marked during its progress with almost every circumstance adverse to Britain; which, at many periods, had menaced her very existence; and under which she must have sunk, had it not been for the resolute perseverance of the King, and the gallantry of his people by sea and land.

Negotiations, prolonged through the autumn of 1782, produced a general pacification at the beginning of 1783, the terms of which, however widely different they were from those which we had dictated at the treaties of Utrecht and of Fontainbleau, seemed neither ignominious nor disadvantageous in the enfeebled state of the finances and resources of the country.

When Adams, the first American envoy, a man personally obnoxious to the King, was first introduced at the levee, His Majesty, in his reception and treatment of him, displayed a degree of magnanimity highly praiseworthy, and deserving of admiration. He observed to the independent representative, that it was with great reluctance he had consented to the separation of the Trans-Atlantic colonies from his dominions; but this he did in a

frank and most conciliatory manner, adding, that now, when their independence was ratified, he should be the last man in the empire to encourage its violation.*

* A more detailed statement of this interview was given in the American papers of that day, as extracted from a letter of Mr. Adams to the secretary of state at Philadelphia. We insert it, as peculiarly illustrative of His Majesty's manner and good disposition; and as shewing that a king, who could conduct himself with such moderation, could never have been actuated by the tyrannical sentiments of which he was accused.

"At one, on Wednesday, the first of June (says Mr. Adams), the master of the ceremonies called at my house, and went with me to the secretary of state's office, in Cleveland-row, where the Marquis of Carmarthen received me, and introduced me to Mr. Frazier, his under-secretary, who had been, as his lordship said, uninterruptedly in that office, through all the changes in administration, for thirty years, having first been appointed by the Earl of Holderness. After a short conversation upon the subject of importing my effects from Holland and France, free of duty, which Mr. Frazier himself introduced, Lord Carmarthen invited me to go with him in his coach to court. When we arrived in the ante-chamber, the master of the ceremonies met me, and attended me, while the secretary of state went to take the commands of the King. While I stood in this place, where it seems all ministers stand upon such occasions, always attended by the master of the ceremonies, the room very full of ministers of state, bishops, and all other sorts of courtiers, as well as the next room, which is the King's bed-chamber, you may well suppose that I was the focus of all eyes. I was relieved, however, from the embarrassment of it, by the Swedish and Dutch ministers, who came to me, and entertained me with a very agreeable conversation during the whole time. Some other gentlemen, whom I had seen before, came to make their compliments too, until

It was on the seventeenth of February that the memorable coalition between North and Fox was

the Marquis of Carmarthen returned, and desired me to go with him to His Majesty. I went with his lordship through the levee-room into the King's closet—the door was shut, and I was left with His Majesty and the secretary of state alone. I made the three reverences; one at the door, another about half way, and the third before the presence, according to the usage established at this and all the northern courts of Europe, and then addressed myself to His Majesty in the following words:

"Sir,—The United States of America have appointed me minister plenipotentiary to your Majesty, and have directed me to deliver to your Majesty this letter, which contains the evidence of it. It is in obedience to their express commands, that I have the honour to assure your Majesty of their unanimous disposition and desire to cultivate the most friendly and liberal intercourse between your Majesty's subjects and their citizens, and of their best wishes for your Majesty's health and happiness, and for that of your royal family.

"The appointment of a minister from the United States to your Majesty's court will form an epoch in the history of England and America. I think myself more fortunate than all my fellow-citizens, in having the distinguished honour to be the first to stand in your Majesty's royal presence in a diplomatic character; and I shall esteem myself the happiest of men if I can be instrumental in recommending my country more and more to your Majesty's royal benevolence, and of restoring an entire esteem, confidence, and affection; or, in better words, 'the old good nature, and the good old humour,' between people, who, though separated by an ocean, and under different governments, have the same language, a similar religion, a kindred blood. I beg your Majesty's permission to add, that although I have sometimes before been intrusted by my country, it was never in my whole life in a manner so agreeable to myself.'

concluded, and announced to the House of Commons, when a most violent attack took place, directed

" The King listened to every word I said, with dignity it is true, but with an apparent emotion. Whether it was the nature of the interview, or whether it was my visible agitation, for I felt more than I did or could express, that touched him, I cannot say; but he was much affected, and answered me with more tremour than I had spoken with, and said—

" Sir,—The circumstances of this audience are so extraordinary, the language you have now held is so extremely proper, and the feelings you have discovered so justly adapted to the occasion, that I must say, that I not only receive with pleasure the assurance of the friendly disposition of the United States, but that I am glad the choice has fallen upon you to be their minister. I wish you, sir, to believe, and that it may be understood in America, that I have done nothing in the late contest but what I thought myself indispensably bound to do, by the duty which I owed to my people. I will be very frank with you. I was the last to conform to the separation; but the separation having been made, and having become inevitable, I have always said, as I say now, that I would be the first to meet the friendship of the United States as an independent power. The moment I see such sentiments and language as your's prevail, and a disposition to give this country the preference, that moment I shall say, let the circumstances of language, religion, and blood, have their natural and full effect.'

" I dare not say that these were the King's precise words: and it is even possible that I may have in some particular mistaken his meaning; for although his pronunciation is as distinct as I ever heard, he hesitated sometimes between his periods, and between members of the same period. He was, indeed, much affected, and I was not less so, and therefore I cannot be certain that I was so attentive, heard so clearly, and understood so perfectly, as to be confident of all his words or sense; and I

against the two quondam rivals; yet it is a fact, that Lord North could not keep himself awake during the debate, notwithstanding the extreme person-

think that all which he said to me should at present be kept secret in America, unless His Majesty, or his secretary of state, should judge proper to report it. This I do say, that the foregoing is His Majesty's meaning, as I then understood it, and his own words, as nearly as I can recollect them.

"The King then asked me whether I came last from France; and upon my answering in the affirmative, he put on an air of familiarity, and smiling, or rather laughing, said, 'There is an opinion among some people, that you are not the most attached of all your countrymen to the manners of France.' I was surprised at this, because I thought it an indiscretion, and a descent from his dignity. I was a little embarrassed, but determined not to deny the truth on the one hand, nor leave him to infer from it any attachment to England on the other. I threw off as much gravity as I could, and assumed an air of gaiety, and a tone of decision, as far as was decent, and said,—'That opinion, sir, is not mistaken. I must avow to your Majesty, I have no attachment but to my own country.' The King replied as quick as lightning: 'An honest man will never have any other.'

"The King then said a word or two to the secretary of state, which, being between them, I did not hear; and then turned round, and bowed to me, as is customary with all kings and princes, when they give the signal to retire. I retreated, stepping backwards, as is the etiquette; and making my last reverence at the door of the chamber, I went my way. The master of the ceremonies joined me the moment of my coming out of the King's closet, and accompanied me through all the apartments down to my carriage; several stages of servants, gentlemen porters, and under porters, roaring out like thunder, as I went along, Mr. Adams's servants, Mr. Adams's carriage, &c."

Of another active republican, the following anecdote has been recorded: While a late Swedish monarch was in France, he

alities against himself; though he afterwards made a most brilliant reply, having been made acquainted with the principal points urged against him by the different speakers.

To the King, this coalition was extremely disagreeable, and he used every justifiable means to prevent their coming into power; but at length was induced to yield, stipulating for Thurlow's retaining the chancellorship. Even this was denied him: but he still shewed that in some points he would be king, by bestowing the archbishopric of Canterbury, just vacant by the death of the Honorable Dr. Cornwallis, on a person of his own selection. He offered that mitre to Hurd, Bishop of Worcester, who declined it, and recommended Louth, Bishop of London. Louth also declined it; but the King would not permit the two bishops to retire from his closet until they had recommended a person whom they considered qualified for that important situation. Their choice fell upon Dr. Moore,

was frequently solicited to visit the celebrated Dr. Franklin, and as often declined. One of the French nobles, who could use a little freedom with His Majesty, begged to know why he denied himself an honor which every other crowned head in Europe would be proud to accept.—"No man," said the monarch, "regards the Doctor's scientific accomplishments more than I do; but the king who affects to like an enthusiast for liberty is an hypocrite. I love the doctor as a philosopher, but I hate him as a politician; and nothing shall ever induce me to be in the presence of a man whom my habits and situation oblige me to detest, while it is in my power to avoid it."

Bishop of Bangor, who accepted the charge, and was confirmed in his office on the second of April, only a few hours previous to the assumption of power by the coalition.

It is a curious fact that, during these negotiations in March, Mr. Pitt actually came into office, and held the situation of first lord of the treasury and chancellor of the exchequer for the space of four-and-twenty hours; but the coalition was too strong in the House of Commons to offer any chance of permanence. Indeed, the King seemed to expect nothing from a new parliament; and it is said that he even had formed the resolution of visiting Hanover, in order to avoid the unpleasant circumstance of the coalition coming into power: but from this he was very properly dissuaded by Lord Thurlow, who spoke to him in the plainest terms, reminding him of James the Second, and hinting that time and patience might yet remove the threatening evil.

The coalition of North and Fox was extremely unpleasant to the King from personal, as well as political, considerations. Lord North had been the companion of his boyhood; and their political connexion, for so many years afterwards, had raised a strong and mutual attachment in the breasts both of the sovereign and his minister.

In fact, there seemed something personally disrespectful to the King in the measure; and his displeasure was totally forgotten some years afterwards,

when the unpopular minister was visited by the loss of sight; a misfortune which excited His Majesty's deepest sympathy, and led the way to a renewal of ancient friendship.

Bishop Watson says that the coalition arose from the King appointing Lord Shelburne to the treasury, without the knowledge of, or at least without waiting for the recommendation of the cabinet. The doctor adds, that the whig part of the coalition, thus forced into the King's service, must have severely felt the great reluctance shown by His Majesty, and the indignities offered them by the court, &c. to which nothing but their poverty could have induced them to submit. Of the liberality of the whigs of that day, it is related by one of their own party, that Fox had determined that Lord Thurlow should not retain the great seal; to which the King was obliged to submit: but Lord North, though it was his duty as secretary of state for the home department, refused to write to that effect to the chancellor, saying, that on his own retirement from office, in the preceding year, Thurlow was the man who prevented his retreat from being inconvenient to him, and therefore he would not give pain to Thurlow. This circumstance both pleased and amused the King: and Mr. Fox was obliged to undertake the ungracious office.

Mr. Nicholls thinks that the abuse of power by those men was ultimately beneficial to His Majesty.

The King was now busied in forming arrangements for the establishment of the heir-apparent; and on the 23rd of June sent a message to the House of Commons by the chancellor of the exchequer, recommending the consideration of the measure to parliament. At the same time it was officially announced that the King had determined not to lay any additional burthens on the people, but to take on himself the annual charge of his son's establishment, to the amount of £50,000. yearly, to be paid out of the Civil List. All, therefore, required from the house was a sum of £60,000. as a temporary aid to equip him on his outset in life, which sum was accordingly voted, with £40,000. additional; and an address of thanks presented to His Majesty. in approbation of this new domestic regulation.

This establishment of the household of his Royal Highness took place on his coming of age, at which time the coalition ministry was still in power, with the principal members of which party the Prince had been long and intimately associated. The greatest exertions were then made by the majority of the cabinet to procure a yearly settlement for His Royal Highness of one hundred thousand pounds; but this was opposed by others, and most strongly by the King, who assigned as his reason, that an inexperienced youth ought not to be entrusted with an extravagant income, the diffusion of which would only gratify the cravings of numerous parasites and panders, without adding to his

own personal comfort, virtue, or dignity. In proportion, however, as the sovereign was firmly bent upon consenting only to a moderate establishment, so were the persons who called themselves the friends of the Prince resolved to carry their point for the magnificent settlement which they had projected.

When things were driven to an extremity, that almost approximated to a change of administration, the Prince interposed, and insisted, with a spirit which did him infinitely more honor than the utmost grant would have yielded pleasure, that the settlement should be left solely to the discretion of the sovereign. But while he signified his earnest wish that the whole business should be left to the King, and declared his readiness to accept whatever His Majesty might think most proper, he, at the same time, manifested his regard for those who had so zealously and imprudently advocated his cause, by urging his intreaty that no farther misunderstanding should subsist between the King and his ministers.

The effects of these political contentions were soon visible upon the equanimity of the King's mind: and it is said that he now become a prey to habitual dejection; appearing silent, thoughtful, and uncommunicative, instead of his former habits of equality of temper, suavity of manners, and cheerfulness of deportment. He resided principally at Windsor, and would sometimes mount his

horse, attended only by an equerry and footman, and ride ten or twelve miles without speaking; perhaps dismount to examine his hounds, or inspect his agricultural improvements, and return to the Lodge in the same unusual pensive manner. He received very few visitors, the late Lord Liverpool and Lord Thurlow being the only two confidentially admitted; the latter being always careful to buoy up his mind with the hopes that Fox's impetuosity or imprudence would speedily put an end to the coalition, which now domineered over the King, lords, and nation at large. Thus the King still preserved his real firmness of opinion; and the ministers found it impossible to persuade him to create a single English peer. The opportunity predicted by Thurlow was soon presented by Fox's India Bill, to which the King was decidedly adverse, though His Majesty, at first, with great prudence, concealed his sentiments, until the bill came before the House of Lords, after the minister had forced it triumphantly through the lower house. It must not be omitted, that Mr. Nicholls expressly charges Burke with being the author of this Bill, instead of Fox. But such was certainly not the public feeling at the moment.

That the King would have refused his assent cannot be doubted; but a decided majority of peers against the measure had already been ascertained, of which Fox was not aware; and the bill was thrown out on the seventeenth of December, by a majority

of nineteen out of one hundred and seventy voting peers and proxies. In fact, the true import of the bill was not at first understood; but Lord Thurlow emphatically declared, that if it passed, the King would thereby take the diadem from his own head, and place it upon that of Mr. Fox: and Lord Abingdon asserted, that Fox was really animated by the same criminal ambition as Cromwell, and actually aimed at sovereign power. Fortunately for the nation, the bill did not pass the second ordeal; and the King was relieved from a proper but most ungracious measure; on which, however, he was determined, having made up his mind to dismiss ministers, dissolve parliament, and thus to seek for support in the opinions and loyalty of his people.

But Fox's intemperate conduct soon rendered more active measures necessary; and the King, with his usual personal activity, manifested how well qualified he was to support his prerogatives, even when ruling over a free nation; for he, on the very day after the rejection of the bill, was sedulously employed in making arrangements for a new ministry; and in the evening sent to acquaint the two secretaries of state, North and Fox, that he had no further need of their services, ordering them to be acquainted that a personal interview would be disagreeable, and requiring them instantly to deliver up their seals. Some delay took place about Lord North's seal; but the King waited quietly at St. James's until one in the morning, and then having

received it, he returned to the Queen's Palace, after entrusting it to the care of the late Marquis of Buckingham. On the ensuing day Mr. Pitt became prime minister.

It was on the eighteenth of December that Mr. Frazer, and Mr. (now Sir Evan) Nepean, the under-secretaries of state, by command of the King, delivered into His Majesty's hands the seals of Lord North's and of Mr. Fox's departments, on their dismissal from office.

It was indeed confidently affirmed that the King himself, having been made acquainted with Lord Temple's strong and decided opposition to the bill, actually commanded his attendance in the closet on the eleventh of December; when he signified to his lordship his own disapprobation of this India Bill, and authorised him to declare the same to such persons as he might think fit. It was stated also that a written note was put into his hands, in which His Majesty declared, "that he should deem those who should vote for it not his friends; and that if he (Lord Temple) could put this in stronger words, he had full authority to do so;" and it was finally added, that in consequence of this authority, communications had been made to several peers, especially to those whose offices and duties obliged them to attend the King's person.

At the time, this was actually brought forward as a grievous charge against the influence and interference of the crown; but it was most certainly the

only mode left to the King of getting rid of the bill, short of the refusal of the royal assent, a measure which would have appeared most ungracious, and therefore to be avoided.

When the miscarriage of Mr. Fox's India Bill, in the House of Lords, and the consequent change of ministry about to take place thereupon, alarmed the Commons, lest a dissolution should prevent the supporters of the measure from counteracting the proceedings of its opposers, Mr. Erskine, on the twenty-second of December, backed by a decided majority, moved and carried the famous address to the King, praying him, for divers reasons, there recorded, to permit the house to proceed on the business of the session, the furtherance of which was so essential to the public service, &c. &c.

This was certainly a delicate case for His Majesty, for he may be said to have been then without ministers; but he showed himself a king—"aye, every inch a king:"—and his answer here deserves a faithful record.

"Gentlemen,

"It has been my constant object to employ the authority entrusted to me by the constitution to its true and only end—the good of my people; and I am always happy in concurring with the wishes and opinions of my faithful Commons.

"I agree with you in thinking that the support of the public credit and revenue must demand your

most earnest and vigilant care. The state of the East Indies is also an object of as much delicacy and importance as can exercise the wisdom and justice of parliament. I trust you will proceed in these considerations with all convenient speed, after such an adjournment as the present circumstances may seem to require: and I assure you I shall not interrupt your meeting by any exercise of my prerogative, either of prorogation or dissolution."

This message being delivered, the house, after some debate, on the twenty-fifth of December, adjourned to the twelfth of January, 1784.

The length of time during which Mr. Fox continued out of office, after this, has been, by his friends, considered as *exclusive*, which it certainly was during the early and middle parts of the French revolution; and it is impossible not to regret that any cause should have existed to keep such a man from power and place. One of his warm admirers says, that if energy of mind, enlargement of views, firmness of character, amenity of manners, acquaintance with foreign courts and languages, facility in conducting business, and prodigious intellectual powers, combining eloquence, application, and discernment—if these endowments can be considered as forming an incontestible claim to public employment, "unsustained by moral qualities, or by property," then the sentence of exclusion against him must be condemned; though it would require

no justification in the eyes of those who consider all talent, however eminent, as radically defective, "unless sustained by decorum, and a regard for opinion;" as well as of all "who prefer sobriety of conduct, regularity of deportment, and the virtues of private life, above any ability which nature can bestow on man;" lastly, "of all who regard judgment, under the control of strict principle, as the most indispensible requisite of a minister, to whom the public honor and felicity are in some measure necessarily entrusted." Of the propriety of these remarks our readers will judge:—in biography we must have no party feeling, if possible; but it is pleasing to reflect, (and here we may slightly anticipate events) that Mr. Fox, as he advanced in life, was rapidly curing himself of his faults and foibles as a man; and that, although when in power a peace with France must have been with him a point of the highest interest, both as a party man and a minister; and although there may have been just cause to censure, and even to smile at the mode and manner in which negotiations were first brought on, yet throughout the whole of that important period, even whilst displaying the sincerest desire for pacification, did he manifest a sturdy, honest sense of national dignity, uniting diplomatic conciliation with the plain unsophisticated firmness of an Englishman anxious for the honor and welfare of his country. If we differed from him in political

His Royal Highness

PRINCE OCTAVIUS,

Born, Feby 28: 1779.—— Died, May, 8: 1783.

opinion, it is doubly gratifying to snatch this opportunity of anticipating that just praise which he will be seen to merit in the following sheets.

A curious anecdote has been related of the King, with respect to the events of this period, when Pitt thus kept his place as premier, notwithstanding all the efforts of opposition, though their numbers had increased to such a degree, that they had a majority of one hundred votes against him, whilst he retained his power for six weeks in spite of them, in hopes that a sense of true patriotism would finally triumph over the factious spirit of party. At length, the majority against him still continuing to increase, he said to His Majesty, "Sire, I am mortified to see that my perseverance has been of no avail, and that I must resign at last." "If so," replied the King, "I must resign too!"*

* His Majesty had nearly lost this faithful servant in the course of the summer, Mr. Pitt having narrowly escaped being shot by a gardener near Wandsworth. The circumstance was shortly as follows: Mr. Pitt dined that day with Mr. Jenkinson, and returned to town in a post carriage; but the boy blundering out of the main road, and not being able to find his way back, Mr. Pitt was induced to go to the next farm-house, to be rightly informed; the dogs, however, making an alarm, the man of the house came out with a loaded gun, and insisted on Mr. Pitt's standing still, on pain of being fired at. Mr. Pitt pleaded and expostulated in vain, till at length the farmer actually fired at him; and the bullet went through the loose part of his coat, but happily without doing any injury. The post-boy, hearing the explosion, ran to the spot; and his appearance, together with Mr. Pitt's arguments, at length so far prevailed on the farmer,

It was then that Lord Thurlow advised His Majesty to dissolve the parliament, and thus take the sense of the nation against the legislative oligarchy.

Of other events during the past year, we may record, that in July Lord Hood carried the gallant Nelson to court, to whom His Majesty was particularly attentive; especially as he had been honored with the personal friendship of the Duke of Clarence, then Prince William.

On the eighth of May the royal family met with a second affliction, in the death of Prince Octavius, which struck deep in their domestic happiness; but in the winter their majesties entered warmly into the public enthusiasm then excited by the inimitable Siddons; and in the course of that winter she performed by royal command. Their majesties thenceforward paid her much attention; and her talent in reading dramatic works having reached the royal ears, she was frequently invited to Buckingham House and Windsor for that purpose.

The system of misrepresentation at that period, in regard to the royal manners and conduct, was

that the chancellor was permitted to withdraw; and his antagonist gave him every necessary instruction to find out the main road to town. The well-known song, written and sung on this occasion, by the facetious Captain Morris, though considered only as a humorous composition, certainly did contain one sentiment too much in unison with that violence of party spirit which we have since often deplored.

"He fired at poor Billy, and went through his laced coat:
Oh! what a pity 'twas, it did not *hit his waistcoat!*"

even at work upon a subject so simple as this; we therefore feel it incumbent to sketch, from Mrs. Delany's admirable correspondence, the real etiquette of one of these occasions, which took place towards the close of this winter.

That venerable lady having been invited to Buckingham House, along with the Duchess of Portland, to hear Mrs. Siddons read the Provoked Husband, she obeyed, and was delighted with the manners and conduct of that highly gifted and estimable actress.

The King, Queen, and greatest part of the royal family, received their visitors in the great drawing-room, where there were two rows of chairs placed the length of the room. The front row, in the middle of which sat their majesties, was occupied by the family, and behind them sat the female guests, the gentlemen standing between them and the wall. Mrs. Siddons, of course, read standing, but with the convenience of a desk, on which were lights; from whence she delivered extracts from the comedy, together with Katharine's speech in Henry the Eighth; and during her performance was allowed three pauses, of half an hour each, for retirement into the next apartment, where refreshments were placed.

This etiquette alone observed, every thing else was easy and familiar; and on her retiring, their majesties detained the company for some time, to talk over the amusements of the evening.

1784.

It was on the twenty-third of March that the extraordinary circumstance took place of the lord chancellor's house in Great Ormond Street being broken open, and the great seal of England, and nothing else, stolen from a drawer in the writing-table of his lordship's study. Such an event, so uncommmon, and so critical, occasioned much speculation: for it was known only on the preceding afternoon that parliament was to be dissolved; and it was mooted by all parties whether the seals were or were not necessary to give effect to that dissolution.

It must be acknowledged that it caused considerable consternation even in the cabinet; but the King put an end speedily to all speculation, by instantly issuing an order under his own sign manual for the preparation of a new great seal; yet even for that he waited not, giving notice to the house of a prorogation on the twenty-fourth, which was followed by a proclamation of dissolution on the ensuing day, though the new seal was not ready for several days after.

On the twenty-seventh of March His Majesty's most gracious pardon, and a reward of two hundred pounds, were offered by proclamation for the discovery of the thief; but, though a notorious personage of that profession was soon after apprehended, and charged with the robbery, yet suffi-

cient evidence being wanting to prosecute to conviction, it was found necessary to discharge him.

The grand festival, in commemoration of Handel, at Westminster Abbey, began on the twenty-sixth of May. It is scarcely possible in any adequate terms to describe the grandeur of that spectacle, the like of which, so grand, so beautiful, and offering to the eye a feast so rich and perfect, had never been witnessed since the coronation. Here were mingled all the youth, beauty, grandeur, and taste, of the nation, unrestrained by forms, and grouped in natural and easy appearance.*

Their majesties arrived in the midst of this splendid scene a little after noon. The King came first into his box, and on viewing the brilliant spectacle, he started, and stood for some moments seemingly in an ecstasy of astonishment, an ecstasy which could only be exceeded by the bounding transports of his amiable consort.

Accompanied by several of their royal progeny, they occupied one box, which was most elegantly ornamented; but it is beyond our limits to attempt a description of the performance; we may, there-

* Haydn was present at one of those commemorations, performed by more than six hundred singers, and four hundred instruments; and during the performance of that sublime Oratorio, the Messiah, he said, thoughtfully, "This man is the master of us all." Mozart placed him above all other composers. He knew his principal works by heart, and used to say, "Handel knows best of us all what is capable of producing a great effect—when he chooses, he strikes like a thunderbolt."

fore, briefly mention, that on the evening of the twenty-seventh, their majesties also attended the continuation of the performances at the Pantheon, mixing with their happy subjects in these innocent and interesting amusements, and nearly laying aside all exterior form and ceremony. This exhibition had first been proposed by Lord Fitzwilliam, Sir W. W. Wynne, and Joah Bate, Esq. its able conductor; after which, the managers of the musical fund, and the directors of the concert of ancient music, joined in the plan: and the design at last coming to the knowledge of the King, it received the warmest sanction of the royal patronage.

During the whole of the performances, the King manifested the utmost interest in the various parts; but he was particularly struck with the Messiah, on the fifth, when, as Dr. Burney states, though the crowd was less than at the preceding performances, the exhibition was more splendid. Indeed, as a spectacle, it was so magnificent a sight, and, as a musical performance, so mellifluous and grateful to the ear, that it was justly considered it would be difficult for the mind's eye of those who were absent to form an adequate idea of the scene, or the mental ear of the sound, from description.

The doctor further states, that there was a great improvement in the manner of executing a particular chorus—"Lift up your heads, O ye Gates!" On the preceding days the alternate semi-choruses were performed by all the voices belonging to each

part; but on this occasion, in order to heighten the contrast, by only three of the principal singers, till about the thirty-third bar, when the whole chorus from each side of the orchestra, joined by all the instruments, burst out—"He is the King of Glory," which had so impressive an effect as to bring tears even into the eyes of several of the performers.

Nor was this effect confined to the orchestra. His Majesty was also much affected, and was pleased to make a signal for the repetition of this, and also the final chorus in the last part. A medal was struck on the occasion, which was worn by the directors on the days of performance; and the King not only condescended to accept one, but actually wore it himself, in compliment both to the dead and the living. The whole of the receipts were for charitable purposes; and the King was so pleased with the performances, that after the third, at Westminster Abbey, he expressly ordered a fourth, which was followed by a fifth, at the particular desire of Her Majesty. The receipts amounted to upwards of £12,000; to which the King generously added £500. This is certainly not a place to dilate on our school of music; but we may add the opinion of a judicious cotemporary, who observes, that whether it should excite regret that Britain has but a very imperfect school of national music, a school by no means prominent or strongly marked, might bear a prolonged discussion: the best compositions, with the best performers, have been imported from

Italy; and the Italian style is the original imitated by our composers. The fine expression and deep science of Handel were favorite with His Majesty; and certainly the commemorations of that great master were due to the intervention of royal favor. Never were eulogies so powerful, or panegyrics so enthusiasticly bestowed on merit of any description, as on those occasions; since they were but the natural expression of feelings excited by the musician's own works; and with one voice bestowed on his merit so long after his decease.

The Civil List was now again in arrear; and on the twenty-third of July the house went into a committee of supply: and Mr. Pitt stated, that in the four quarters, ending on the fifth of April preceding, the Civil List had incurred a debt of £44,000, which it was unable to discharge without the aid of parliament; therefore he meant to apply to the committee for a sum sufficient to discharge it, and to enable His Majesty to defray any expense that might arise during the recess of parliament. It was his wish, he said, to have laid before the committee the debt up to the July quarter; but gentlemen conversant with the treasury must know that the account could not be got ready; therefore, for the present, he should only ask for £60,000; and, indeed, he was in hopes that reductions would be made sufficient to enable His Majesty, for the future, to discharge the arrears without any further aid; but he could by no means pledge himself that

they would. The right honorable gentleman concluded with moving, "That the sum of £60,000. be granted to His Majesty, to enable His Majesty to discharge the debt incurred on the Civil List, and to prevent arrears in future." On the question being put, the sum of £60,000. was agreed to.

Soon after, on proroguing parliament, the speaker, alluding to the grant, said, "Sir, your faithful Commons, in compliance with your majesty's request, by very heavy taxes on your majesty's subjects, have made provision for the support of the public credit, and for making up the deficiencies in the Civil List, not doubting but your majesty's wisdom and justice will properly dispose of what the confidence of your people has so liberally granted."* To which His Majesty replied:

* These taxes would have been less, had all been equally honest with the writer of the following.

London, August 20th, 1784.

Right Honorable Sir,

The distresses of my country have awakened in my breast a monitor, which informs me, that in my younger days, when I followed the seas, and carried adventures, as most seamen do, and by which the revenue was injured, I acted wrong; in consequence of which conviction, I have, Right Honorable Sir, inclosed three hundred pounds in bank bills, which is a vast sum out of the small fortune I am possessed of, which I humbly request may be applied to the service of my country, humbly hoping, for the quiet of my conscience, that I may be included in the Act of Indemnity, which is about to pass: and I take further the liberty of assuring you, that I have never acted with violence against the laws of my country, nor have been a common smuggler; that

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons, the zeal and liberality with which you have provided for the exigencies of the public service, and the assistance which you have given me to prevent a growing arrear in the expenses of my Civil List, demand my particular thanks. I feel in common with you for the unavoidable burthens of my people. The importance of effectually supporting our national credit, after a long and exhausting war, can alone reconcile me to so painful a necessity. I trust the same consideration will enable my faithful subjects to meet it, as they have uniformly done, with fortitude and patience."

All fears of the Pretender, and of attachment to the Ex-Stuart family, being now at an end, though he had left a brother, the Cardinal York, the restoration of the forfeited estates of 1745 was proposed

there is no process out against me, nor can any person whatever take one out against me.

Humbly hoping that what I have done and said may meet with your's and my country's approbation, and entitle me to be particularly mentioned in the act, I take the liberty of adding, that I am, with the utmost respect for your many virtues,

Right Honorable Sir,

Your most humble, most devoted,

And obedient Servant,

T. T.

I humbly desire, that on the receiving the aforementioned bills, it may be acknowledged in the Gazette, and the London Chronicle.

To the Right Hon. William Pitt, &c.

to parliament by Mr. Dundas. This was opposed by Lord Thurlow in the House of Lords; and yet it was generally understood that the measure was proposed with the King's approbation. It passed both houses, however, and the royal assent was most graciously given. On this subject the following anecdote may be inserted: His Majesty having been told of a gentleman of family and fortune, of Perthshire, who had not merely refused to take the oath of allegiance to him, but had never permitted him to be named king in his presence, "Carry my compliments to him," said the King, "but—what—stop—no—he may perhaps not receive my compliments as King of England; give him the Elector of Hanover's compliments, and tell him that he respects the steadiness of his principles."*

The King was now very active in his improvements at Windsor, in which he sometimes employed the troops in the vicinity with great propriety.

* The following are a few of the noblemen and gentlemen who forfeited, in 1745, those estates, which were afterwards restored to their heirs: Simon, Lord Lovat; Lord John Drummond, brother to the earl, commonly called Duke of Perth; George, Earl of Cromarty; Archibald M'Donald, son of Colonel M'Donald, of Barrisdale; Donald Cameron, of Lochiel; Charles Stewart, of Ardshiel; Donald M'Donald, of Kinloch-Moydart; Evan M'Pherson, of Clunie; Francis Buchanan, of Arnprior; Donald M'Donald, of Lochgary; Allen Cameron, of Monaltry; and Alexander M'Donald, of Keppoch. Lord M'Leod was son and heir to the Earl of Cromarty.

On the arrival of the twelfth regiment of foot from Gibraltar, after having served in that fortress almost fifteen years, in particular during the whole course of the blockade and siege, it had the honor of being ordered to do duty at Windsor; and a detachment was employed during the summer in making rides in the forest, and parts adjacent. Previous to the regiment being relieved, a small stone pillar was erected, by permission, on the spot from whence the different rides branch off, with the following inscription on it.

"These Rides were begun, and above forty miles completed, in the year 1784, by a detachment of His Majesty's twelfth regiment of foot, quartered at Windsor, upon its return from Gibraltar.

"Bello dimicantes,
Pace laborantes,
Otium fugimus."

1785.

During the past political events, considerable additions had been made to the House of Lords; and it was observed that the peerage list of England had increased in the course of a century, during the reigns of six successive sovereigns, in the following manner:—At the death of King Charles the Second, the House of Lords consisted of one hundred and seventy-six members: at the death of King William the Third it consisted of one hundred and ninety-two members: at the death of Queen

Anne they amounted to two hundred and nine members: at the death of George the First the peerage was two hundred and sixteen: at the decease of George the Second it had increased to two hundred and twenty-nine members: and, in the year 1784, it amounted to two hundred and fifty-two peers, lords spiritual and temporal; and has since considerably increased.

The King, in 1785, still continued his improvements at Richmond; and, wishing to shut up the foot-way from Richmond to Kew, generally called Kew Lane, which hitherto had separated the royal gardens through the greatest part of their length, he obtained the consent of the parish for that purpose; and an act of parliament having passed, he, as lord of the manor, gave to the parish, in lieu, certain parts of Pesthouse and Hill Commons, for building a workhouse on, and for enclosing a new burying ground—a transaction which sufficiently marks the regal powers, and the liberties of the subject in this happy country.

The familiar style in which the King mixed with his subjects in their amusements in general may be exemplified by the conduct of the royal party at Egham races, on the twenty-ninth of August, when the King, Queen, and five of the princesses, arrived on the course without guards or ceremony, and were received by the Duke of Queensberry, who gave them some account of the horses that were to run. The lord mayor and lady mayoress had some con-

versation with their majesties; after which the King appeared on the ground on horseback, and conversed with the clerk of the course at different intervals, with the utmost condescension. During this time, the Queen, Princess Royal, and Princess Elizabeth, were in an open landau, and the three younger princesses in a coach.

Whilst in the field, their majesties regaled themselves with cold beef, ham, and veal, and seemed to enjoy their lunch in the plain field manner; expressing themselves, on leaving the course, much pleased with the day's sport.

Indeed, their mixing thus familiarly with their subjects, sometimes led to the most whimsical occurrences; particularly on one occasion, shortly after the races, when, returning from London to Windsor, in their post chaise, at their being set down, a number of children surrounded the carriage, to see the King and Queen; amongst whom was a fine sturdy boy, who had that morning put on short clothes for the first time.

His Majesty, ever attentive even to the most humble, instantly fixed his eye on the cheerful countenance of the child, and asked him whose boy he was; to which the reply was, "My father is the King's beef-eater." "Then," said the King, "down on your knee, and you shall have the honor to kiss the Queen's hand;" to which the boy boldly replied—"No! but I won't though; because I shall dirt my new breeches!"

This extempore but uncourtly repartee had such an effect upon their majesties, that they made the child a handsome present; and repeated the story afterwards as an excellent joke.

The King, Queen, and royal family, had gone to Newnham, in Oxfordshire, on a visit to Lord Harcourt, proposing to return to Windsor the same evening; but the weather proving favorable, the royal pair determined to take that opportunity of paying a private visit to Oxford; and accordingly slept that night at Newnham, from whence they drove to Oxford the next morning, on the twelfth of October; and arriving at Christ Church just at prayer time, they proceeded without ceremony to the cathedral, and took their seats during the service.

After prayers they visited all the colleges, and held a sort of levee in the theatre, where the principals and students were assembled; and then proceeded to the council chamber, to receive the civic compliments. During the whole of this visit their majesties mingled most familiarly with the crowd, displaying great affability and condescension, and cheerfully affording every opportunity to the inhabitants for the gratification of their earnest wishes of seeing so many branches of the royal family. In return, the decency of the populace, and great attention of all other classes of the inhabitants, were highly pleasing, whilst the dignity and grandeur of such a display of superb structures added much to the effect of the scene.

The bells were incessantly ringing during the whole of the visit. At five o'clock the royal party set off for Newnham; but the good people of Oxford illuminated their city at night notwithstanding, whilst a general joy and satisfaction appeared in every countenance.

The familiarity with which those friendly visits were paid, whether in the immediate vicinity of the royal residence, or even at considerable distances, prevented them from being at all oppressive to the parties so honored. That familiarity is well sketched in several of Mrs. Delany's letters; and about this time, or rather previous, she relates that on one occasion, whilst sitting in the long gallery at Bulstrode, with the Duchess of Portland, his Majesty walked up to their work-table unperceived and unknown, until he was close to them. Their surprise was instantly got over, by his courteous and affable manner, which rendered him even a welcome guest; and he informed them that he had called with the intelligence of the Queen's perfect recovery, after her recent lying-in. The breakfast was then ordered in, of which the King partook without ceremony, stopping for a couple of hours, with all the ease of a morning call amongst intimate friends. Shortly afterwards, their majesties arrived together at Bulstrode, accompanied only by Lady Courtown, and took breakfast in the same friendly way; the Queen herself expressly waving the etiquette of a respectful call on the en-

suing day, saying she was going to town for a few days. In a week or two the whole royal family went to Bulstrode, in two coaches and six, except His Majesty on horseback, and attended by a great retinue; on which occasion more state was assumed: yet the visit was itself of the most friendly style, for the Queen brought to the venerable Mrs. Delany a very elegant machine for knotting fringe, to which His Majesty added a gold knotting shuttle of most exquisite workmanship and taste. When this visit was returned in form at Windsor, the same amiable condescension was displayed, a concert being executed in the adjoining apartment, His Majesty himself expressly directing the band to play such productions of Handel and Geminiani, as he said he knew to be pleasing to the venerable lady whom they thus honored by their notice.

When the concert was over, directions were given to bring in the young Princess Amelia, then only nine weeks old. This was done with all due form; but the happy parent, disregarding all courtly etiquette, took the lovely infant in his arms, and presented her to the visitors with all the delight that could possibly mark the domesticity of private life.

We record these facts as peculiarly illustrative of character, and in direct contradiction to the unhandsome slanders of that period.

Indeed, there was such simplicity in His Majesty's manners, that he has even borrowed music books, of which an instance is mentioned by the

venerable lady already referred to, to whom the King sent a friendly note, in the most gracious and condescending style, in acknowledgment of some of Handel's music lent to him by her nephew, part of which was new to him, and which he had copied out for performance in a private concert at the Queen's House. In this year, also, took place a most kind instance of friendly condescension to the amiable Mrs. Delany, who had experienced a severe loss by the death of her friend the Duchess Dowager of Portland, not in a pecuniary point of view, but from the severing of the ties of early intimacy. The whole circumstance is so illustrative of royal goodness, that we must claim permission to relate it more fully.

On the death of the Duchess, in July, the enquiries of their majesties, as to Mrs. Delany's bodily and mental health, were frequent and consolatory; and immediately afterwards, the King himself presented her with a summer residence, completely furnished, in St. Alban's Street, Windsor, in the immediate vicinity of the Castle; and he was so considerate as to guard against her feeling any inconvenience from keeping two houses, by the grant of a pension of three hundred pounds a-year.

So personally did the King interest himself in this affair, that when Mrs. Delany sent her servant to Windsor, to see what conveniencies might be requisite, previous to residence there, His Majesty sent back a message, that she was only to bring her-

self, niece, clothes, and attendants, as stores of every kind would be provided.

Shortly afterwards, the Queen wrote her a most condescending note, expressly by the King's desire, to call her to Windsor, where every thing was prepared for her comfort; and, on her arrival there, she found the King himself waiting to receive her, and personally to put her in possession of his favors; he, at the same time, behaving to her as if he was the obliged person, and she the mistress of the house. To copy the whole of this affair would be invidious in regard to the correspondence itself. We can only recommend its perusal to every loyal heart.

The inclement winter of 1785 will long be recorded, as having been a season of the most intense and continued severity ever known in Europe, affording to the sons and daughters of opulence the most frequent opportunities of revelling in the luxury inseparable from the exercise of the god-like virtues of charity and benevolence.

One day during this gloomy period, as has been ably and correctly described, the King, regardless of the weather, and never more happy than when in action—it may be added, too, never more delighted than when doing good,—was taking a solitary excursion on foot, and unbending his mind from the cares of government, when he met two pretty little boys (the eldest seemingly not more than eight years of age), who, though ignorant it was

the King they were addressing, fell upon their knees before him, deep as the snow lay, and wringing their little hands, prayed for relief—the "smallest relief," they cried, for they were "hungry, very hungry, and had nothing to eat." More they would have said, but for a torrent of tears, which, gushing down their innocent cheeks, actually choaked their utterance. The King, struck even to horror with this heart-rending sight, tenderly desired the weeping suppliants to rise; and having, at length, with that amiable affability which always distinguished his character and conduct, encouraged them to proceed with their story, they added that their mother had been dead three days, and still lay unburied; that their father himself, whom they were also afraid of losing, was stretched by her side upon a bed of straw, in a sick and helpless condition; and, in fine, that they had neither money, nor food, nor firing, at home.

In this brief detail of woe, ingenuously as it was given, there was a somewhat more than sufficient to excite pity in the royal bosom; and the question with His Majesty now was, whether, simply as the tale had been told, there could possibly be any truth in it.

He accordingly ordered the two boys to proceed homeward, and, following them till they reached a wretched hovel, he there found the mother, as mentioned, *dead*—dead too apparently from a total want of common necessaries—with the father,

literally as described, ready to perish also, but still encircling with his feeble arm the deceased partner of his woes, as if unwilling to remain behind her.

The good King now felt a tear start from his eye; nor did he think his dignity degraded by giving a loose to his sensibility on the occasion; and accordingly leaving behind what cash he had about him, which rarely, however, amounted to much, he hastened back to the Lodge, related to the Queen what he had seen, but declared himself totally incapable of describing what he had felt, and instantly despatched a messenger with a supply of provisions, cloathing, coals, and every other accommodation which might afford immediate sustenance and comfort to a hapless family, groaning, as he declared, under afflictions more piercing by far than he could have supposed to exist in any part of his dominions, or even conceived to be possible, had he not himself witnessed it.

It is pleasing to add, that, revived by the bounty of his sovereign, the unhappy father recovered his health; when His Majesty, anxious to give happiness to the children, as well as health to the parent, finished the good work he had so meritoriously begun, by giving orders that, until the years of maturity, they should be cloathed, educated, and supported, at his expense, with the hope of having such preferment bestowed upon them afterwards as their conduct might justify.

Well was it remarked, that on other occasions

His Majesty might have acted more like a king; but upon no occasion, perhaps, did he act more like a man.

1786.

The celebration of the Queen's birth-day was put off in the year 1786, from the usual day to the ninth of February, when an elegant and most numerous court attended the drawing-room.

In the evening, the ball-room was highly splendid, and exhibited a display of fine women, such as no court in the universe could equal. The King and Queen seemed particularly delighted; and separately addressed every lady within the circle assigned to the dancers, whilst the prelude was playing by the royal band.

So numerous was the company upon this occasion, that the ball-room was crowded before their majesties entered; and soon after Lord Aylesford found it necessary to give directions that no more persons should be admitted, and that the door should be locked.

The most remarkable person at the ball was the Tripoline ambassador, attended by his page of honor and secretary; all of whom were dressed in the costume of their country, exciting great attention: whilst they, in return, appeared much delighted, and astonished at the crowd of beauties that surrounded them.

Both the King and Queen were at this period

very attentive to theatrical performers of merit. Early in February, Mrs. Siddons was no sooner recovered from lying-in, than their majesties expressly ordered the part of Mrs. Lovemore for her first appearance, which they went to see, joining heartily in the demonstrations of welcome exhibited by the audience towards that admirable performer.

A few nights afterwards Mrs. Billington made her first appearance, in Rosetta, in Love in a Village, announced as from the Dublin Theatre, but in fact, by Her Majesty's special command, as this young performer had for some time assisted at the royal private concerts, where she was very much admired, and indeed met with equal applause on her histrionic debut.

Whilst thus participating with condescending familiarity in all the amusements of his subjects, His Majesty felt gratified in the due observance of splendid etiquette, especially whenever he honored their mansions with a private visit; an instance of which occurred on the twenty-seventh of April, on the birth of a daughter to the then Earl of Salisbury, on which occasion the ceremony of baptism was performed with a degree of *eclat* unprecedented in this country, their majesties and the princess royal, *in person*, standing as sponsors for the little lady.

The ceremony was performed in the evening at his lordship's house, in Arlington-street, where

every preparation was made to grace the occasion with the utmost splendor.

Their majesties and the princess having arrived in their chairs, they were ushered into the baptismal chamber, where, according to etiquette, the countess sat up in bed to receive them: this bed was of green damask, with flowers in festoons, and lined with orange coloured silk, the counterpane of white satin.

Her Majesty was dressed in dark green, coloured with silver gauze, and ornamented with the greatest profusion of diamonds, perhaps, ever seen at one time, with which, indeed, her head was literally covered; and His Majesty was also superbly dressed.

The company present consisted of all the rank and fashion in town, connected with the noble families of Hill and Cecil; and the ceremony was performed by his Grace the Archbishop of Canterbury.

Her Majesty received the child from Lady Essex, and the archbishop received it from Her Majesty, who named it Georgina Charlotte Augusta. Their majesties stayed till a late hour, during which, according to etiquette, none of the company could sit down; and then returned with the usual formalities.

The present which His Majesty gave as a memorial on this occasion, was a piece of plate of one hundred and twenty ounces, on which were en-

graved the names of the infant, sponsors, &c.; and the whole of the entertainment and ceremonials made much noise, at that time, in the fashionable world.

The King, finding that to enrol his numerous sons in the order of the garter, agreeable to the original establishment, must prevent him from conferring that honor to the extent he wished upon the most dignified of the nobility, took occasion, on holding a chapter of investiture on the third of May, to direct the chancellor to read a new statute, by which it was ordained, that in future the order should consist of the sovereign and twenty-five knights, exclusive of the sons of the sovereign.

A few days after this, His Majesty issued his commands for a new uniform for the general officers of the army, in which they appeared for the first time on the birth-day.

A family event took place this year about the month of June, respecting which there was much animadversion at the time; but we shall merely fulfil the duty of faithful biography, by briefly stating the circumstances, which were, that his Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, finding his affairs embarrassed, applied to His Majesty for assistance; assuring his royal parent, that if any part of his conduct was thought improper, he would, upon its being made known to him, alter the same, and conform to His Majesty's wishes in every thing that was becoming a gentleman.

In consequence of this application, the King instantly ordered a state of the Prince's affairs to be laid before him; which statement was made out, enumerating his debts, and expenses for fitting up Carlton House; the whole amounting to £250,000. The statement was laid before the King, and on the fourth of July, in the evening, Lord Southampton received His Majesty's answer, which was a direct and positive refusal; and no sooner was this delivered to his royal highness, than he instantly took his resolution to retire to a private station.

It is wholly unnecessary now to enter into all the bearings of this question—to blame or to approve of His Majesty's conduct towards his eldest and favorite son—it is enough to recall to public recollection the very honorable course adopted by his royal highness to prevent the accumulation of fresh debts, and to provide for the discharge of the old ones, which was now put at once in force by an immediate sale of almost all his horses, and the reduction of his expenditure in all points.

Many most injurious reports were in circulation at this time against His Majesty's fair fame, in regard to some diamonds of immense value presented to him by Mr. Hastings: that is, he was the official presenter, but not the donor as alleged; for the diamonds had been sent as a present by the Nizam, directed to Mr. Hastings at Calcutta, as a present to the King; but Mr. Hastings having sailed

for England previous to their arrival at that city, they were entrusted to the care of a military officer returning home. From him they passed through several hands, in consequence of an extraordinary robbery of his trunks in Bengal, and came at last into the possession of Mr. Blair, brother-in-law to Mr. Hastings, through whom they were transmitted to Lord Sydney, agreeable to the Nizam's original intention.

But as Hastings died poor, we cannot suppose that he would present his own diamonds. Indeed, the whole affair is now too well appreciated to require further elucidation; we shall therefore merely record an anecdote we have seen, which states, that, amongst other attacks on the royal character, a very bold caricature was one day shewn to His Majesty, in which Hastings was represented wheeling the King and the chancellor in a wheel-barrow for sale, and crying, "What a man buys he may sell." The inference of course intended was, that His Majesty and Thurlow had used improper influence; but the King smiled at the caricature, and observed, that although he had been in various kinds of vehicles, this was the first time he had ever rode in a wheel-barrow.

It was on the second of August that, as His Majesty was alighting from his post-chaise at the garden gate of St. James's Palace, a paper was presented to him by a woman of decent appearance. The King

graciously stretched out his hand to receive it, and in that instant the woman aimed a blow at his breast with a knife, which she had concealed. Fortunately His Majesty parried the thrust by a sudden movement of his body; and, as the woman was preparing to repeat the blow, one of the yeomen seized her arm, and wrenched the weapon out of her hand. In this abrupt and imminent peril, the only emotions elicited by His Majesty were indicative of an anxious solicitude,—not for his own safety, but for that of the wretched woman who had attempted his life. The very first words he uttered conveyed an injunction to his attendants *not to hurt the poor woman;* thus shewing a self-possession truly honorable, free from all panic, yet alive to all the circumstances of the case.

Proper steps were instantly taken to secure the culprit; and a full and clear investigation of the circumstances took place before the privy council, when the woman was incontestibly proved to be a maniac, of the name of Margaret Nicholson; and it was ascertained that for several days previous to this sacrilegious attempt she had presented a petition, replete with the most incoherent and extravagant statements, thereby establishing the fact of her insanity beyond all possibility of doubt. Under these circumstances, the humanity of our laws, and of the administrators of them in the first instance, considered her as a fitter object for a

receptacle for lunatics than for a court of justice, and accordingly she was consigned to the care of Bethlehem Hospital, all idea of a trial for high treason being given up.

That Margaret Nicholson really intended to kill the King, has by some been doubted; but it is evident that her actions were sufficient to convince His Majesty of the fact, for when she pretended to offer him the paper, he observed the point of the knife whilst stooping to receive it, and a thrust being made by her at the same instant towards his belly, he drew back, and said, "What does the woman mean?"

It was then that the yeoman, observing something extraordinary, seized her by the arm, and immediately the knife dropped out of her hand.

Taking it up, the yeoman said, "It is a knife,"—when the King, with great coolness, observed, "I am not hurt: take care of the woman—she is mad—do not hurt her."

He then went forward into the palace, but when he had recovered from the surprise which a circumstance so very extraordinary must have occasioned, he began to appreciate the particulars more fully, and said, with great feeling, that he had not deserved such treatment from any of his subjects.

Notwithstanding the confusion of the moment, the King still retained the paper, and opened it on reaching the royal apartments; but it contained

nothing more than the usual address of petitions—"To the King's most excellent Majesty." During the subsequent investigations, she was asked why she delivered a blank rather than a petition, if she had any thing to ask? She replied that her ends could be as well accomplished with the one as with the other: so that there could be no doubt of the intent, though certainly prompted by insanity.

She appeared about six-and-thirty years of age; was respectably dressed; and daughter to a barber at Stockton-upon-Tees.

It may be added, that the knife only touched His Majesty's waistcoat; besides, it was so much worn, and so very thin, that when she thrust it against his body it bent. A gentleman afterwards tried the point of it against his hand, when the knife bent almost double without piercing the skin.

This weakness in the instrument was very fortunate, for had it been stronger, the consequences must have been dreadful, perhaps fatal.

An anecdote has been related on this occasion, which did much honor to the humanity and presence of mind of the Spanish chargé d'affaires, who no sooner heard of the frustrated attempt, than he set out post for Windsor, and immediately sought an audience of Her Majesty; not as a mere gossip would have done, in order to assure her that the King had received no injury from the knife of the assassin, but with the judi-

cious plan of keeping her engaged in conversation, and thereby to prevent her from hearing any report at all until the King's arrival.

In this design he happily succeeded, and then took leave of their majesties, leaving the King to tell the story himself. His Majesty shook him very graciously by the hand, and assured him that he hardly knew a man in the world to whom he was so much obliged.

An amiable letter writer, already quoted, says expressly, from her own knowledge, that the King would not permit any notification of this event to be sent to the Queen, previous to his presenting himself to her in person, which he did by returning to Windsor, on the breaking up of the council; and entering her dressing-room in his animated manner, saying merely, "Here I am, safe and well." Some idea of events of importance struck Her Majesty, when the King told the whole circumstance, which had a powerful effect upon the Queen, and two eldest Princesses, who were with her; but their sorrow soon gave way to joy, which was not, however, too potent to make them forget their humbler friends, their majesties actually taking precautions that their venerable protegee should not be informed of the affair until next morning, lest the agitation produced by it should injure her health. But she was then told of it, and invited to the Lodge to spend the evening, when, as she observes, "she felt the happiness of be-

ing with them not a little increased, by seeing the fulness of joy that appeared in every countenance."

It was observed that a similar instance had taken place some years before, as the King was coming in his chaise from the Queen's palace to St. James's. A woman, as in the present instance, was the offender, who broke the front glass only, whilst making a blow at him. She was also declared insane.

The impression made upon the public mind by this nefarious attempt brought to recollection several assaults made personally upon His Majesty;*

* A parallel case of merciful consideration has been related of Queen Elizabeth, when her life was in danger from the vengeful feelings of Margaret Lambrun, one of the attendants upon the unhappy Scottish queen, and whose sorrow for the death of her beloved mistress had been excited to enthusiasm by the demise of her husband, through grief for the melancholy catastrophe at Fotheringay Castle. In order to gratify her vengeance, Margaret assumed male attire, with the designation of Anthony Spark; and, constantly keeping a brace of pistols concealed in her bosom, she attended Elizabeth's court, in hopes of an opportunity of assassinating that monarch, and resolved upon subsequent self-murder. Understanding one day that the Queen was promenading in the garden at Greenwich, she hastened to the spot; but, in pushing through the crowd, excited the suspicions of the yeomen of the guard, by dropping, accidentally, one of her pistols, as it is stated, but more probably a dagger, as pistols at that period were merely matchlocks, and therefore not a likely weapon, either for common use, or facile concealment. The alarm soon spread, and coming to the ears of the Queen, she desired to examine the

particularly some years before, at a review upon Wimbledon Common, when a well-dressed man seized the bridle of his charger, and insisted that his grievances should be attended to. He was

culprit personally, previous to her being sent to the Tower; and, having demanded her name, country, quality, and intentions, Margaret boldly disclosed the whole truth, mixed with some severe reflections upon Her Majesty's conduct, and a vindication of her own feelings.

The Queen listened coolly and attentively; and, at the close of this extraordinary confession, said, "You are persuaded then that in this step you have done nothing but what your duty required.---What think you is my duty towards you?" Without tremor or hesitation, the prisoner demanded whether that question was put in the character of a queen or of a judge; to which Elizabeth answered, in the character of a queen. "Then," said Lambrun, "it is your duty to grant me a pardon." The queen was silent for a moment, and then said with an air of deep thought, "But what assurance can you give me that you will not again make a similar attempt?" To which Margaret replied, that a favor ceased to be so, when yielded under restraints, and that the queen in thus granting pardon would be dropping that merciful character, and assuming that of a judge. Turning round to her courtiers, Elizabeth said, "I have been a queen thirty years, and never had the truth spoken so plain to me before." Then with a dignified smile, she desired that an entire and unconditional pardon should be recorded; and refused to listen to the suggestions of her ministers, who were anxious for punishment. Lambrun then very coolly requested Her Majesty to grant her the further favor of a safe conduct out of the kingdom; under the protection of which she proceeded to France, and there ended her days, yielding up vengeance to magnanimity.

immediately taken into custody, and on examination proved to be an insane military lieutenant, who had left his regiment at Gibraltar, in consequence of the sentence of a court martial.

The last direct attack of a murderous nature, however, that had been made in this country, was upon the person of George the First, by a young man of the name of Shepherd, a coach painter. That unfortunate criminal, when at the place of execution, was offered his life if he would solicit pardon of the King; but he refused to sue for the royal clemency: an act which Lord Chesterfield compared to Roman heroism, even whilst expatiating on the infamy of the intent.

Two days after Nicholson's attempt, the King arrived at St. James's from Windsor, for the purpose of holding a levee, where a greater number of the nobility and gentry attended than had been known since the accession. Many old peers, who had not been at St. James's for a number of years, most of the foreign ministers, and an infinity of commoners, appeared on the occasion; all of whom testified, in the most loyal expressions, their great satisfaction on His Majesty's providential escape. Addresses from all parts of the kingdom were presented shortly afterwards, expressive of the public feeling, the effect produced being both powerful and extensive; whilst these congratulatory addresses, which flowed in from every part of the empire,

manifested a general spirit of loyalty, alike honorable to the sovereign and to the subject. Often, while personally congratulated on his escape, His Majesty has declared that these unequivocal testimonies of his people's love, these indubitable tokens of allegiance and attachment, constituted much more than an equivalent for the danger to which he had thus been exposed.

The noble family of Harcourt were always in high favor with His Majesty, and often received friendly visits at their seat of Newnham, near Oxford; one of which took place in the month of August this year, when the royal family, after attending divine service at Newnham church, set off for the University, where they arrived between one and two, and were received with all due collegiate state by the heads of houses, university officers, &c. accompanied by the Duke of Marlborough, and other nobility and gentry.

They now marched in grand procession to the theatre, where the King took the chancellor's chair, when he received a most loyal address from the University, expressive of their joy at his happy deliverance from the recent nefarious attempt against his life: to which His Majesty answered, that such dutiful sentiments, on this his second visit to a seat of learning, called forth his warmest thanks, and that he was not less sensible of their respectful expressions towards the Queen; adding, that the

University of Oxford might ever depend upon his inclination to encourage every branch of science—"as the more my subjects are enlightened, the more they must be attached to the excellent constitution established in this realm."

A perambulation of all the colleges then took place, with an elegant repast at Trinity; from whence the royal party proceeded to the council chamber of the corporation, to receive the address from the city: after which they returned to dine at Newnham, and the next day visited Blenheim, where His Majesty expressed great admiration of the paintings, gardens, and park; departing in the evening to Newnham, and thence to Windsor.

When the Archduke and Duchess of Austria visited England this year, they accepted an invitation to dinner at Windsor on the twenty-eighth of September, and arrived there about one o'clock, when every preparation had been made to receive them with the utmost magnificence.

Windsor Castle at this time was undergoing considerable repairs: but the workmen were now removed; and all the fine furniture being uncovered, those illustrious visitors were conducted through all the apartments by their majesties in person. To see and to examine every thing worthy of observation occupied two hours, when the party proceeded to the cathedral, or Chapel of St. George, where, by the King's express command, was hung up the

cartoon of the resurrection, then painting by Mr. West, in order that the imperial guests and their suite might have a better idea what the painted window would be when finished. The Reverend Mr. Lockman and Mr. West attended, together with Mr. Jarvis, who had with him part of the window, with which the Archduke, the Prince Albani, &c. appeared to be highly delighted.*

Their majesties now returned with their illustrious guests, at four o'clock, to dinner, in one of the great apartments of the Castle. At seven o'clock they retired to a grand concert in the King's guard chamber, which lasted until eleven, consisting of four acts; in the intervals of which the company were entertained with tea and other refreshments in adjoining apartments. But that which rendered the entertainment superior to what any other sovereign in Europe, or the world, could give, was the introduction of Dr. Herschel and his grand telescope, which he had recently completed, previously to the immense one now standing near Slough. With this instrument, the night fortunately being favorable, that illustrious astronomer exhibited the various heavenly bodies, to the great delight and astonishment of the august party.

* Of all the Roman nobility, Prince Albani was at that period considered to be the best judge, as well as the most liberal encourager, of the fine arts---qualities which he inherited from his uncle, Cardinal Albani, who was the great Mæcenas of his time, and formed a most superb collection of *virtu*.

At eleven o'clock the great doors of St. George's Hall, next to the guard or concert room, were thrown open, and exhibited a scene of such splendour and magnificence, as, it was politely observed, no one present could have imagined possible to be surpassed by any thing in those splendid orbs which they had just been viewing. In this hall were two tables, covered with a most magnificent supper; at one of which sat royalty, and at the other all the foreign and home nobility who had been invited.

After an hour and a half dedicated to friendly conviviality, the royal party rose, followed by the company, and passed into the guard chamber, where they remained for some time, exchanging mutual compliments, when their illustrious visitors took leave, and returned to the metropolis.

A whimsical circumstance, illustrative of His Majesty's domestic exactness, took place this year, when one day at dinner he actually observed a very offensive insect upon his plate amongst some green peas. This unseemly object excited considerable anger and disgust, and instantly occasioned an order to be issued that all the cooks, scullions, &c. in the royal kitchen, should have their heads shaved. Great murmurings were excited by this decree; but the law, like those of the Medes and Persians, was unalterable; accordingly, the incident was seized upon by Peter Pindar for a direct attack upon his sovereign in a mock-heroic, at which the King had

the good sense to laugh heartily, though certainly his good humour neither excused the unhandsome ribaldry of the poem itself, nor operated as an antidote to the disloyal poison which it conveyed into the breasts of the malicious and unthinking, who enjoyed the joke with a double relish, as kicking and braying at a monarch, without ever recollecting that the monarch, even as a man, must be amiable, when the most licentious scrutiny could only fix upon an incident that would have induced any of his subjects to act with equal domestic rigour.

We have seen it stated that the hostility of Wolcot arose from His Majesty having taken a fancy to a picture at the Exhibition, for which the painter would have had a hundred guineas from a private person, and then sending him but fifty pounds for it; which appears a second version of the anecdote respecting Opie. It was reported also that Pindar derived his jokes from the cook to the Prince of Wales; who, being in habits of intercourse with the cooks at St. James's, readily furnished the materials for the Lousiad. It is likewise said, that although the King himself magnanimously forbade the prosecution of Wolcot, laughing heartily at his jokes, yet Her Majesty, though less magnanimous, was unwilling to provoke the Doctor to a justification. Most of the stories had some foundation, but underwent embellishments from the author's fertile genius.

Let us turn from this, however, to a more grate-

ful subject, to record an instance of royal beneficence in the steps taken for transplanting the bread-fruit of the South Seas to our West-India settlements; and which, though hitherto unattended by the expected beneficial results, is not the less praiseworthy, and may, even at a future period, be of considerable importance, if our colonists will avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded them to cultivate a never-failing source of food for the negro population.

Nor is the less merit due to His Majesty, because the idea may not have originated with himself, but was only a gracious compliance with a request of the merchants and planters interested in our colonies. This voyage is indeed the more remarkable, because the object of all the former ones, undertaken at the express desire of the King himself, had been the advancement of science and the increase of knowledge, whilst Bligh's expedition may be considered as the first, the intention of which was to profit by those discoveries.

Of a similar nature was the formation of a settlement in New South Wales, the first expedition to which sailed in December, this year: a plan said to have been first suggested by His Majesty to his ministry, and adopted by them in its fullest extent.

1787.

It was early in January, 1787, that His Majesty addressed to Arthur Young the letters more par-

ticularly mentioned in another place, respecting the agricultural improvements of this country. In this year also he marked his attention to literature by knighting John Fenn, Esq. who had dedicated to him his two quarto volumes of original letters of the reigns of the 6th and 7th Henries, containing numerous state anecdotes of England and France, &c.

Bishop Porteus too was another instance of the King's regard for merit; though it has been said that his promotion to the London mitre originated with Her Majesty. Porteus, however, records that he certainly received a letter from Mr. Pitt, announcing his episcopal appointment, in which that minister stated that it was himself who recommended that worthy divine to His Majesty—a recommendation which instantly met with the royal approval.

In the course of this year His Majesty lost his sole surviving aunt, the Princess Amelia.*

* This princess, who was the last surviving child of George the Second, died at an advanced age. She was of a masculine turn of mind, which appeared in her dress and manners, for she generally wore a riding habit in the German fashion, with a round hat; and delighted very much in attending her stables, particularly when any of the horses were out of order. Her practice was to rise very early; and she always drank her coffee or chocolate in a standing posture, or walking all the while about the room. She took snuff immoderately, and was very fond of cards. Being at the public rooms one evening at Bath, a general officer seeing her box stand open on the table, imprudently ventured to take a pinch from it, which her royal highness observing, she ordered her servant to throw the remainder of the contents of the box into the fire.

The King, ever anxious to see whatever was curious in mechanism or in art, announced his intention of paying a visit to Mr. Whitbread's brewery in Chiswell Street, which accordingly took place on the twenty-sixth of May. The time appointed was ten in the morning; but curiosity and courtesy outran the clock, and their majesties, with three of the princesses, were there a quarter before the time, when they were received by Mr. Whitbread and his daughter, who requested their partaking of an elegant breakfast then provided. This their majesties politely declined, and immediately proceeded to view the works, to which they dedicated a couple of hours.

The great steam-engine first attracted the royal attention, which the King rapidly but judiciously explained to Her Majesty and the princesses in all its parts. The great store, containing three thousand barrels of beer, was next examined: and the Queen and princesses were so much amused with the store-cistern, that they went into it, though the aperture was so small as scarcely to admit their entrance into a cavity capable of containing four thousand barrels.

Mr. Whitbread at this time was possessed of a horse remarkable for his height; and the horse-keeper, who had charge of eighty horses employed in the works, was so elated with the presence of royalty, and the vanity of office, that he boldly told the King he would "show His Majesty the highest

horse amongst his subjects." The good King smiled to see the poor fellow on his high horse, went to see the animal, and with good-natured condescension permitted the horse-keeper to expatiate upon his qualities. He even went so far as to guess at the height of this curiosity, which was upwards of seventeen hands, and to examine him critically, noticing that his muscle was not in proportion to his bone.

Passing on towards the cooperage, a gratifying scene ensued on the King looking out of a window into the street, where he was first seen by the people, who had by this time assembled in considerable numbers, and now gave breath to their loyalty by repeated huzzas.

The Queen, on this, manifested much sensibility; and, after tenderly turning to felicitate her consort on the contentment of his people, took her daughters by the hand, and advanced herself to the window, when she was also saluted by repeated cheers.

Great pains had been taken to render this visit a comfortable one, as matting covered every part of the route that could be wet or dirty, whilst lamps were lighted wherever necessary; and when every thing was seen, the walk ended at the dwelling-house, where a magnificent cold collation was served up on a complete service of plate, accompanied by all varieties of wine, and, more characteristically, by an immense bottle of the very best porter.

To this collation the royal party cheerfully sat

down, inviting the Duchess of Ancaster and Lady Harcourt to join them, whilst the gentlemen found refreshment in another apartment.

At two o'clock the King rose, and expressed the highest satisfaction at the day's exhibition and entertainment, and most particularly at the elegance and urbanity of his hosts, from whom he took leave in the most condescending manner, as did the Queen and the other royal branches.

This year was particularly distinguished by the King's proclamation for encouraging piety and virtue, and for the preventing and punishing of vice, profaneness, and immorality; occasioned, as His Majesty declared, by his observing, with inexpressible concern, the rapid progress of impiety and licentiousness, and that deluge of profaneness, immorality, and every kind of vice, which had recently broken in upon the nation. In consequence of this, he felt it his indispensable duty to exert his authority for the suppression of these evils, and therefore announced his determination to discountenance and punish all breaches of morals, in all ranks, especially in regard to such persons as were more particularly employed about the court or government. He also called upon all ranks to set a good example; to attend more punctually to the public offices of divine worship; and strictly enjoined the magistracy to punish and prevent all breaches of the Sabbath day.

Nor did His Majesty himself fail to add examples

of useful charity to the precepts laid down for the morals of his subjects. We find that at Christmas, anxious that all should partake of the festivities of the season, at least in his own vicinity, he gave ten fat oxen to be distributed amongst the poor of Windsor.

An interesting writer, often quoted, draws a pleasing picture of the condescending ease and manners of the royal family in the course of this year. It appears that their majesties, on returning to Windsor from town, have frequntly called to see her previous to their arrival at the Queen's Lodge, often asking her to drink tea and spend the evening, quite in a family way, with no company but the lady in waiting, where, though a circle of the most awful nature, it was far from a painful one; as the condescending address and gracious manner of their majesties and the princesses made it perfectly easy and pleasant.

Mrs. Delany, in another part of her correspondence, about this period, expressly says,—" but the truth is, the love of giving comfort, and bestowing happiness, seems to predominate in the hearts of my royal friends." She then describes their evenings in the summer as devoted to the terrace until eight o'clock, when they returned to the Lodge to tea and music. So fond were the royal pair of that venerable woman's society, yet unwilling to distress her in extreme old age, that the Queen expressly desired she should only come to the Lodge when-

ever it was quite easy to do so, but to come frequently, and without being sent for. The custom then pursued by that good lady was to go to the apartment of the amiable novelist, Miss Burney, then in the Queen's household, and, on the return of the royal family from the terrace, His Majesty, or else one of the princesses, went into the room, took their visitor by the hand, and led her into the drawing-room, where there was always a chair placed for her upon the Queen's left hand, the princesses and ladies in waiting sitting round the table, whilst a vacant chair was left for the King whenever he chose to sit down. During the pauses in the concert, the King always chatted easily and pleasantly, and played for an hour at backgammon with one of the equerries towards the close of the evening.*

* Dr. Beattie having paid a second visit to Windsor, describes the royal reception in the following lively manner, in a letter to Miss Valentine.

"London, 20th July, 1787.

"I am just returned from Windsor, where I passed three days. I went thither, partly to see some friends, but chiefly that I might pay my respects to the King and Queen. They both received me in the most gracious manner. I saw the King first on the terrace, where he knew me at first sight, and did me the honor to converse with me a considerable time. Next morning I saw him again at prayers in his chapel, where he was pleased to introduce me to the Queen, who inquired very kindly after my health; observed, that many years had passed since she saw me last; regretted the bad weather which I had met with at Windsor (for it rained incessantly), which, said she, has made

1788.

About the middle of April, 1788, His Majesty's person was extremely endangered by the striking of a vicious horse, in the stable at the Queen's Palace, where he had gone, attended by a page, who, observing him approach too near one of the cattle whose disposition was known, gave him a caution on the subject; but the King, saying that the horse would not do him any hurt, went into the stall, and was immediately hemmed in by the animal, which began to kick with great fury. The page, with considerable presence of mind, now hinted to His Majesty to catch hold of the horse's head, and hold him fast; and whilst the King was thus employed with the animal, whose violence seemed to

your friends see less of you than they wished; and after some other conversation, Her Majesty, and the Princess Elizabeth, who attended her, made a slight courtesy, and stepped into the carriage that waited for them at the chapel-door. The King remained with us for some time longer, and talked of various matters, particularly the union of the colleges. He asked whether I was for or against it. I told him I was a friend to the union. 'But Lord Kinnoul,' said he, 'is violent against it:' (this, by the bye, I did not know before). The King spoke jocularly of my having become fat: 'I remember the time,' said he, 'when you were as lean as Dr. **** there,' pointing to a gentleman who was standing by. 'You look very well,' said His Majesty to me, 'and I am convinced you are well, if you would only think so. Do, Dr. Heberden,' said the King, 'convince Dr. Beattie that he is in perfect health.' Dr. Heberden was also standing by."

increase, the page ran for the groom who had been accustomed to attend that particular horse.

The groom instantly threw a halter on its neck, and backed it out of the stall; in consequence of which the King was released from a danger that nearly threatened his life; and the page was afterwards appropriately rewarded for his zeal and activity.

In the spring of this year, the non-juring clergy of Scotland first resolved to pray for the King and royal family, a circumstance which seems to have arisen from the hopes of restoration of the Stuart family being now at an end, as the second Pretender had recently departed this life, whilst the sole survivor of that unhappy race was not only advanced in years, but also in holy orders as a Cardinal; circumstances which precluded all hope of a continuation of the line, at least in that branch of the Catholic descendants of James the First.

This loyal proceeding gave great satisfaction to the King, who was always partial to Scotland ever since his early visit to that country incognito; nor was he unmindful of it in other circumstances, as he, in the month of July, announced his intention of giving an annual prize to the royal company of archers at Edinburgh, for the express purpose of restoring that manly and martial exercise to its original splendor: and the first prize was shot for in Bruntsfield Links by the company on the twenty-eighth of July.

His regard for Bishop Hurd, as a family pre-

ceptor, was particularly manifested this year by the present of an elegant gold medal, which he bestowed upon him with his own hand at the Queen's Palace, having the royal head on one side, and on the reverse, taken from a seal belonging to the bishop, a cross, with the initials I. N. R. I. on a label, a glory above, and the motto below ΕΚ. ΠΙΣΤΕΩΣ; His Majesty having seen that seal in the bishop's possession, and approved of it so highly, that he had the present medal struck, to be given for the annual prize dissertation on theological subjects at the University of Gottingen.

Amongst various anecdotes of His Majesty at this period, was one relating to the law promotion which made the present Lord Eldon and Sir Archibald Macdonald, Solicitor and Attorney-Generals. When these gentlemen went to kiss hands on their appointment, Macdonald, with all due courtly deference, went through the usual ceremony of being dubbed a knight; but not so the worthy chancellor, who, when the officer in waiting was directed to bring him up to undergo the same ceremony, begged leave to decline it. This, however, His Majesty did not choose to admit of, but exclaimed when the fact was disclosed to him—"Pho! Pho! nonsense! I will serve them both alike." A resolution which could not be got over.—Mr. Scott kneeled of course, and rose up *Sir John.*

A more dignified anecdote has been related of his lordship's appointment to the great seal, which

states that His Majesty presented a watch to Lord Eldon: the seal bore the figures of Justice and Religion, which were engraved under the particular directions of the King. "Let not Justice have any bandage over her eyes, as she is usually painted," said His Majesty. "Justice ought not to be blind, but should be able to see every thing." When the watch was given to the chancellor, it was accompanied with this address: "I hope, my lord, that all your decisions will be given under the constant influence of Justice and Religion."

His Majesty during this year evinced his great regard for literature, by his condescending attentions to the venerable Dr. Maclaine, who held, for more than half a century, the respectable situation of minister of the English church at the Hague. The learned doctor was of a respectable Scottish family, but born in Ireland in 1723. Losing his parents at an early age, he was taken under the protection of a maternal uncle then residing in Holland, where, and under whose auspices, he was educated for that station, upon which his life reflected so much honor. His publications were not very numerous, but they were excellent, consisting of two volumes of Sermons; a Series of Letters to Soame Jenyns on his defence of Christianity; a Letter on the partition of Poland; and a translation of Mosheim's Church History, with notes and appendices. His excellent character, and the high respect in which he was held, rendered Dr. Maclaine familiar with

many of the most distinguished individuals for rank and talent in Europe: and upon the occasion of his visit to this country, the King caused him to be introduced to a private interview, which took place at Windsor, when His Majesty conversed with him in the most affable manner, adopting the friend, without forgetting the monarch, and exhibiting traits of which the doctor always spoke with the highest veneration.

The feelings of the King on literary and political subjects were strongly marked by an occurrence connected with this visit. It seems that the doctor had in his possession a large collection of King William's Letters to the grand Pensionary Heinsius, which he always said impressed him with the highest idea of the probity, candor, moderation, and simplicity of that monarch's mind. Their style it is known is pithy and laconic; and the letters concise, seldom longer than a page and a half, but inconceivably clear and intelligent. This collection was in the hands of a descendant of Heinsius, who had five copies of them transcribed, for the purpose of presenting them to several distinguished personages. He accordingly did present them to the Stadtholder, the Duke of Brunswick, and some one else; and intended another copy for Count Bentinck; but that nobleman dying the very day on which they were to be put into his hands, the descendant of Heinsius presented them to Doctor Maclaine, who wished much to complete the collec-

tion, by procuring copies of the answers likewise, which are in the royal library at Kensington. On his arrival in this country, coming over with our ambassador, Lord Dover, he asked his lordship whether it would be possible to get a sight of these papers?—"Oh no," replied the ambassador: "you are too late. His Majesty is so offended with the use which Dalrymple made of the papers that he saw, that he is determined the collection shall never again be seen by any one."

In the early part of the summer the King's health was in rather an indifferent state; and a mineral course being thought necessary for his relief, Sir George Baker recommended the waters of Cheltenham; accordingly, on the twelfth of July, their majesties, accompanied by the three eldest princesses, set off from Windsor, paid a short visit to Lord Harcourt at Newnham, and arrived at the end of their journey in the afternoon, passing through an immense concourse of people in each town upon the road, who received them with every demonstration of loyalty and respect.

The King's great object in this visit was to keep off the gout, which had been flying about him for some time. This the physicians at first proposed to fix in one of the extremities by proper regimen; but His Majesty fearing thereby to lose his usual exercise, adopted the use of these mineral waters in preference.

Their majesties resided at Lord Fauconberg's

delightful seat about a quarter of a mile from the town, and had their table kept in the plainest manner; so that when on a visit to Oakly Grove, where Lord Bathurst prepared a sumptuous dinner, they declined partaking of it, as in direct opposition to the plans of health laid down.

Here his time was occupied in drinking the waters, and in making excursions to all the places worthy notice in Gloucestershire and Worcestershire; in which he was every where hailed with the most loyal acclamations. Amongst other visits, was one to Hartlebury Castle, the episcopal palace of the good Bishop Hurd; whither he was also accompanied by the Duke of York, who had arrived at Cheltenham on the preceding day. The royal party, attended by a small suite, set off at such an early hour, as to travel the distance (thirty-three miles) in time for breakfast, at half past eleven; previous to sitting down to which, in the library, they examined that ancient residence with great precision and curiosity.

After breakfast they walked into the gardens, and took several turns on the terraces, especially the green terrace in the chapel garden, as minutely detailed by the worthy prelate in his own memoir, where they shewed themselves to an immense crowd of people, who flocked in from the vicinity; and, standing on the rising grounds of the park, saw, and were seen, to great advantage. The day being extremely bright, the bishop describes

the shew as agreeable and striking; and it was much admired by the royal party, who returned to Cheltenham in the evening.

At this period the charitable meeting of the three choirs of Gloucester, Hereford, and Worcester, for the benefit of the widows and orphans of the poorer clergy of these dioceses, was about to take place at the latter city; and His Majesty having expressed his intention to honor that solemnity with his presence, the performances had been fixed for the early part of the month.

On the day previous to the commencement, the royal cortege left Cheltenham for Worcester, where they had accepted of the bishop's invitation to take up their abode in his palace; and the next morning, previous to visiting the cathedral, His Majesty gave audience to the bishop and clergy, when Dr. Hurd delivered an address expressive of congratulations on his safe arrival, of loyal affection and duty, gratitude for regard shewn to religion and to the church, and pious wishes for his welfare; to which the King returned a most gracious answer. An address, appropriate to the occasion, was also delivered to the Queen; after which the whole of the party had the honor to kiss hands.

The corporation next arrived, when their recorder, the Earl of Coventry, led similar ceremonials; after which a public levee was held, when their majesties and family, suite, &c. walked through the court of the palace to the cathedral, to attend

divine service, at their entrance into which they were received with all clerical formalities, and conducted to a gallery fitted up for the occasion: the same ceremonial being observed on the successive days of performance.

During the meeting, the concourse of visitors of all ranks at Worcester was immense; and the loyal joy, loudly expressed, was universal. All were particularly delighted with the exemplary conduct of the royal family, who attended prayers in the bishop's private chapel every morning, the service being performed by the bishop himself, and manifested their charitable feelings by a donation of £200. to the charity, with £50. from the King, and the same sum from the Queen, for the poor of the city, besides £300. which the King left with the bishop, for the benevolent purpose of releasing the most deserving debtors in the city and county gaols.

Of this visit various anecdotes have been told, on good authority; particularly, that on the first morning the King went down the street incog. He was soon recognised; and when he came upon the bridge, he turned round to the people, and said, "This, I suppose, is Worcester new bridge." "Yes, please your majesty," said a cobler. "Then," said he, "my boys, let's have a huzza!" His Majesty set the example, and a fine shout ensued. Afterwards the mob continued huzzaing him all the way to the palace.

The second morning the King was out at half after five. He went to Colonel Digby's and Colonel Gwynn's lodgings. The maid servant was cleaning the door. The girl threw down her mop and run away to the bell. The King stopped her, and desired her to show him where the "fellows" slept. The girl obeyed; and His Majesty went himself and called them up. The colonels leaped out of their beds as if surprised in camp by an enemy; but the King was off, and they were obliged to run over the town to find him.

On visiting the guildhall, His Majesty was singularly affable and agreeable. After viewing every thing worthy of attention, he was shewn into the grand parlour, where some excellent viands, wines, fruit, &c. were placed. The mayor having been previously informed that His Majesty never tasted wine in the morning, humbly entreated him to take a jelly. The King replied, "I never yet did take wine in the morning; but on this interesting and pleasant occasion I will venture on a glass." The mayor filled a glass of rich old mountain, and His Majesty drank, "Prosperity and happiness to the corporation and citizens of Worcester." This being made known to the multitude without, they rent the air with their shouts.

On his return to the palace, he walked through the streets. As he came with only one attendant, besides the lords in waiting, the crowd voluntarily opened an avenue for His Majesty, forming a pha-

lanx on each side, to prevent any rude intruder, if there had been one, from breaking in upon the passage. The scene was affecting; and, when taken in a political point of view, forms an interesting epoch in the history of the country. After so many centuries had passed in repeated struggles for and against liberty, and for the several successions which had taken place to the throne; after the crown had been obliged to resort to the unconstitutional expedient of a standing army for its support—to behold the King of the country walking the streets as a private gentleman, with only two or three attendants, amid thousands and tens of thousands of his subjects, without a single guard or peace officer, happy in the love, and rejoicing in the liberty of his people, was an event such as the oldest man then living had never seen, and such as the youngest, but a few years before, scarcely ever expected to see.

An attempt was made to move the spirit in the quakers of Worcester to address His Majesty; but these people kept in their old dull track of life, and were rather concerned that such a thing as a royal visit had happened, to break in upon their quietude. About a dozen of the more curious among them got leave to step into the court yard when His Majesty's coach left the palace, but they stood unmoved, with their hats on their heads. The King saw that they were quakers, and taking off his hat,

bowed to them. They, in return, moved their hands, and the eldest of them said—"Fare thee well, friend George!" The King and Queen laughed heartily at this sympathetic affectation.

But perhaps the most remarkable incident attending this royal visit is still to be related. The only person who, by His Majesty's desire, accompanied him, as conductor through the town, was a descendant of Cromwell's family. The King appeared to converse with him with great affability and condescension. The singularity of the circumstance attracted general notice.

Of the King's readiness to manifest his opinion, the following anecdote is related during this visit to Worcester. On the proposition for building Downing College, at Cambridge, that new establishment was opposed by a Dr. Torkington; and when a gentleman of that name was introduced to His Majesty, the King turned his back upon him, at first supposing him to be the person alluded to. Of his turn for toleration, the following anecdote is also told. It is said, that His Majesty asked Mr. Barr, an eminent manufacturer, how it was he had not been made an alderman of the corporation? Mr. Barr replied, that being a dissenter, he could not conscientiously comply with the required test, namely, receiving the Lord's Supper in the established church. "Very right, very right," exclaimed His Majesty. "I like a man to be consci-

entious;" and he afterwards repeated it to the Queen and princesses—"I like Barr. I wish every one to be conscientious."

On the ninth of August the royal party returned to Cheltenham, where they remained until the fifteenth, when they set off for Windsor.

The King's amiable behaviour during the whole of his stay at Cheltenham rendered him highly popular. During his walks, accompanied by the Queen and princesses, he was constantly attended by crowds of people. His Majesty pleasantly observed to the Queen: "We must walk about for two or three days to please these good people, and then we may walk about to please ourselves." His manners were unaffected and condescending to every one. He walked about unattended by any pomp, without a single guard; more secure in the hearts of his faithful subjects than in all the parade attendant on foreign princes.

To those about His Majesty, he declared more than once, at moments when the heart speaks its undisguised sentiments, that the hours he had passed at Cheltenham, and in other parts of the country, unguarded, and in the midst of his people, had more than repaid him for all the hours of solicitude he had experienced during his reign. His Majesty would not allow any soldiers to do duty or reside within ten miles of the Royal Spa. The band of Lord Harrington's regiment, only, were permitted to attend His Majesty.

England had at that moment completely recovered from the exertions of the war, and was rapidly proceeding in the enjoyments of peace; but in the midst of this flattering aspect of affairs, an unexpected and disastrous change was beginning to manifest itself, which, however, no human prudence could have foreseen, nor precaution delayed. In short, this happy land was destined to view in its fullest extent the mutability of fortune, and the fragility of greatness; to witness a memorable lesson to our own, and to future times, that the splendor and felicity of man, however solid the foundations on which they may seem to repose, are in the hands of a superior being, who confers or withdraws them in an instant; but who will still afford support and assistance, in the day of trouble, to those who seek for it in a due performance of the duties pointed out by reason and revelation, and in a reliance upon his wisdom, goodness, and constant providence.

It is not easy, says an historian of that time, to parallel in our modern history a period of more perfect serenity than that which England now presented. The King, accompanied by the Queen, and surrounded by his family, after having tried the efforts of a relaxation from public business, and of the medicinal waters of Cheltenham, had returned to Windsor; not indeed in a state of vigorous health, but by no means in any such declining state of indisposition as to excite alarm among his

people. The Prince of Wales, as usual, was at Brighton; Mr. Pitt, occupied in the duties of his function, was detained in the vicinity of the capital: whilst Mr. Fox had withdrawn in some measure from the bustle of political life, and was traversing the romantic wilds of Switzerland and the classic regions of Italy.

The whole nation in short were enjoying their usual relaxation from the busy scenes of the winter season, when from this state of public recreation and felicity they were suddenly awoke by the reports of His Majesty being attacked with an unexpected and dangerous illness. The precise nature of it was for several days unascertained and unexplained, even to those whose residence near the court might have enabled them otherwise to have obtained early and authentic information. Meanwhile fame augmented the evil, and the death of the sovereign was believed to have either already taken place, or to be imminent and inevitable.

The King had a strong presentiment of his growing malady some time before it happened. Four or five evenings previous to his being taken ill, after a private concert, His Majesty went up to Dr. Ayrton, and, laying his hand on the doctor's shoulder, with his usual benignity—"I fear, Sir," said His Majesty, "I shall not be able long to hear music: it seems to affect my head: and it is with some difficulty I hear it." Then turning round, he

softly ejaculated—"Alas! the best of us are but frail mortals."*

But over this let us draw the veil—to relate the thousand anecdotes connected with it, would only be to open a scene of human humiliation, distress-

* We have seen numerous anecdotes that have transpired since His Majesty's demise, one of which may claim quotation. It states that, being one day tired of vainly soliciting to see the Queen, he desired to have her picture, when he addressed it, with great calmness and recollection, in these words:—"We have been married twenty-eight years, and never have we been separated *a day* till *now*, and *now* you abandon me in my misfortunes." It being deemed improper to hazard the Queen's having an interview with His Majesty, a lady, whom he used particularly to esteem and value, begged to be permitted to see him, in the hope of exciting some salutary feeling in the royal mind. The event did not answer the benevolent intention; but too well confirmed the expediency of the Queen's remaining at a distance.—It has been related, on good authority, that the habitual piety of the King did not forsake him in his calamitous situation. On Sunday, the sixteenth, his Majesty desired to have prayers read; and on Mr. M....'s approach, seeing him confused (embarrassed perhaps from emotions of sensibility) he rose from his seat, and presenting a prayer-book, pointed to several prayers that he had marked, and desired they might be read. His Majesty accompanied the chaplain with much recollection; but soon after his wanderings returned, and great disturbance of mind ensued. In the King's calmer moments, his principal occupation was writing; and the subject generally despatches to foreign courts. These, founded on imaginary causes, were said to be written with great consistency and uncommon eloquence. At some periods, all gracious, condescending, and munificent, His Majesty lavished honors upon all around him.

ing to the heart, and unnecessary to the objects of the present work.

Nor is it even necessary to expatiate upon the hopes and fears of the nation respecting his ultimate recovery; the political interrugnum which ensued; the hopes of the outs, or the exertions of the ins; the really whig principles and practice of Mr. Pitt, in looking to the hereditary legislature and the representatives of the people, for power to nominate and to regulate a regency; nor the really tory principles of Mr. Fox and his party, who seemed disposed even to revive the divine indefeasible hereditary right of the preceding century.

These events form a most important feature in the history of Britain; but to general history we must leave them, as the recovery of the King early in the ensuing year rendered it unnecessary then to put into practice those constitutional principles which have since been acted upon, in spite of the clamours of faction, and to an extent which has strengthened the constitution itself, without derogating from the sovereign authority, or giving an undue weight to the influence of the people.

We may just observe, however, that the leaders of the two great parties saw the prospect of the royal recovery through two very different mediums. Those who imagined the disorder incurable were sustained in this opinion by Dr. Sir George Warren; whilst the adherents of Pitt were confirmed in opposite sentiments by Dr. Willis: two physicians,

in whose contradictory prognostics and apprehensions each party implicitly relied.

Public report did not scruple, though unjustly, to accuse the former of leaning too much towards party; but the latter, brought from a distant county to attend his sovereign under his severe disorder, and having been peculiarly conversant in that species of disease, boldly and early asserted, that he entertained scarcely any doubts of His Majesty's perfect re-establishment at no remote period: and the event fully justified his assertion.

1789.

A very short period, probably not exceeding three days, must have completed the bill then before parliament, which was to declare the incapacity of the sovereign to conduct the national affairs, and to transfer the sceptre, though with diminished influence, to his son. The members of administration were on the point of resigning their charges, and a new ministry, already settled, were prepared to enter on office; whilst the British nation, fondly attached by every sense of loyalty and affection to their monarch, as well as from gratitude and esteem for the prime minister, looked on in dejection and silence, and certainly with very little satisfaction, at seeing the government transferred to men, who, whatever abilities or talents they might collectively or individually possess, neither merited nor enjoyed he general approbation and confidence, though such

was loudly and impudently asserted by a portion of the public press.

But a change took place: the disorder under which the King had suffered during three months, its violence appearing hitherto to baffle all medical skill and exertion, now gradually but permanently subsided.*

It is recorded, that on the twenty-second of February, 1789, Mr. Pitt and Lord Melville were dining with Lord Chesterfield, when a letter was brought to the former, which he read; and, sitting next to Lord Melville, gave it to him under the table, and whispered, that when he had looked at it, it would be better for them to talk it over in Lord Chesterfield's dressing-room. This proved to be a letter in the King's own hand, announcing his recovery to Mr. Pitt in terms somewhat as follow:

"The King renews with great satisfaction his communication with Mr. Pitt, after the long suspension of their intercourse, owing to his very tedious and painful illness. He is fearful that during this interval the public interests have suffered great inconvenience and difficulty.

* One instance of this was, that one day His Majesty desired to have £400. from his privy purse. He divided it into different sums, wrapping them up in separate papers, upon which he wrote the names of persons to whom he had been accustomed to make monthly payments, with perfect accuracy and precision. His Majesty then wrote down the different sums, with the names annexed, cast up the whole, as he formerly used to do, and ordered the money to be paid immediately, it being then due.

"It is most desirable that immediate measures should be taken for restoring the functions of his government; and Mr. Pitt will consult with the lord chancellor to-morrow morning upon the most expedient means for that purpose; and the King will receive Mr. Pitt at Kew afterwards, about one o'clock."

There could be no hesitation on the part of Mr. Pitt; but holding first the necessary conference with the chancellor, he waited upon the King at the appointed time, and found him perfectly of sound mind, and in every respect as before his illness, competent to all the affairs of his public station. This was the first notice in any way which Mr. Pitt received of this most important event. The reports of the physicians had indeed been of late more favorable; but Lord Melville verily believed there was not a man, except Dr. Willis, who entertained the smallest hope of the restoration of the King's mind. Mr. Pitt continually declared this opinion to Lord Melville, and they had both determined to return to the bar, as the dissolution of ministry was then on the point of taking place.

The letter in question Lord Melville took from Mr. Pitt, saying he had a trick of losing papers, and furnished him only with a copy, the original remaining in his lordship's possession. The King wrote the letter at a little table of the Queen's, which stood in his apartment, without the knowledge of any person; and having finished, rang his

bell, and gave it to his valet de chambre, directing it to be carried immediately to Mr. Pitt.

But His Majesty had given proofs of approaching sanity previous to this in conversations with his attendants. In one of these, a Captain Manners was mentioned. His Majesty said, "Let him come in; he is not only Manners, but good Manners." A looking-glass, in a pier, between two windows, had been covered with green cloth to prevent the King's seeing how greatly he was emaciated. The King asked the reason of the green cloth being put there. The answer was, "To prevent the reflection of too much light." His Majesty said, "How can that be, when it is from the light?"

Sanity of mind and reason thus resumed their seat, and left no trace of their temporary subversion. Time confirmed the cure, and restored to his subjects a prince rendered supremely and peculiarly dear to them by the recent prospect and apprehension of his loss.

The demonstrations of national joy now far exceeded any recorded in the British annals, and were probably more real and unfeigned than ever were offered on similar occasions. No efforts of despotism or mandates of absolute power could have produced the illuminations and other demonstrations of loyalty which the whole nation displayed. Proofs of attachment were renewed, and even augmented in the capital, when His Majesty and the

royal family went in solemn procession to St. Paul's, to return thanks for his recovery.

In recording a few anecdotes connected with this unhappy illness, we must not forget that of Lord Thurlow, then lord chancellor, who, when pressed to consent to the claims made for a hasty regency, exclaimed most emphatically—"When I forget my King, may my God forget me!" We may add, that as the physicians had given it as their opinion that the King's former mode of life had been the principal cause of his disorder, especially from the great influx of weighty business, severe exercise, too great abstemiousness, and litttle rest, so did His Majesty, with great prudence, determine, as far as he was able, to adopt gradually a system of life which should counteract any effects remaining from these primary causes.

That the King's recovery was perfect is evident from the state of his memory; for it is a well-known fact, that, in the very first moments of his restoration, he said to Mr. Pitt, that he had made several promises previous to his illness, enumerating them, and adding, that they must be fulfilled; most clearly manifesting also a deep sense of honor, and a sound moral principle.

On the eleventh of March, 1789, an address was presented by the lords to His Majesty on his recovery; and on the twelfth, the Earl of Salisbury came down to the House, and presented the following answer to the address.

My Lords,

This very dutiful and affectionate address calls forth my warmest thanks. The sentiments expressed in it have so universally prevailed among my loving subjects, that they must, if possible, increase my solicitude for the prosperity and happiness of this my native country.

So attentive was the King always to the offices of religion, that, on the thirteenth of March, he received the sacrament at Windsor Chapel from the hands of Bishop Hurd, who had attended him for some time by express desire; on which occasion His Majesty was attended only by three or four of his gentlemen.

The King's munificence was as noble as it was discriminating. During his illness a committee was appointed to examine the state of the privy purse; when, out of an income of £60,000. per annum, it was found that His Majesty never gave away less than £14,000. a-year in charity.

The twelfth of March was the day appointed for the King's message to parliament, with an official declaration of the complete restoration of His Majesty's health—a notification hailed by the most vivid expressions of public joy. It is unnecessary to recapitulate the illuminations and other rejoicings further than to observe, that in all parts of the metropolis the people seemed to vie with each other who should give the most beautiful and pic-

turesque devices on the occasion, and who should testify their loyalty in the most conspicuous manner.

Indeed, so general was the tribute of affection to the revered monarch, that could his royal eye have surveyed the spendor, and witnessed every accompanying demonstration of gladness, he would have retired with as proud feelings as ever animated the bosom of a king. It was, in short, a trophy that reflected as much true dignity on the sovereign as it did honor to the nation. It was enjoyed, however, by the Queen and princesses, who arrived in the evening from Kew, at Lord Bathurst's, in Piccadilly, now the residence of the Duke of Wellington; whence, after taking some refreshment, they proceeded to drive through the streets for two hours, gratified with the highest of all human pleasures—that of seeing him whom they most venerated, venerated by all.

The expenses of the metropolis were supposed to have exceeded £100,000. At Kew also the Queen caused some very fine emblematic transparencies to be exhibited.

The part taken by Her Majesty in the conflict was imposed upon her by the necessity of the circumstances in which she was placed; and had she acted any otherwise than she did, her name would not have passed down in history without reflections on the versatility of the human mind. Time has set an immutable stamp upon her conduct; and though the servile worshippers of the rising sun

endeavoured to justify their own inconsistency and apostasy at her expense, we know that the principle on which she proceeded has long since been regarded with admiration in that very quarter where faction essayed to create mistrust, and perpetuate coldness.

The recovery of His Majesty diffused joy throughout the British empire; and while the Queen participated in the universal feeling, she had the exquisite pleasure to find that the course adopted by her, under the severe visitation which tried her fortitude, was acknowledged with gratitude by the voice of the people.

When first permitted to have an interview with His Majesty, it was but for a quarter of an hour. The scene, as may well be supposed, was extremely affecting. The Queen bore it with uncommon firmness; but His Majesty felt every visible mark of perturbation. When the stipulated period, the quarter of an hour, had expired, Dr. Willis put His Majesty in mind of his royal promise, but to very little purpose, till he added, that as the room was rather cold, a longer continuance might injure Her Majesty's health. This instantly produced the intended effect, and he took his leave in the most affectionate manner.

On the third of April, the beloved consort of our venerated monarch displayed, at Windsor, that superb evidence of conjugal joy which had been

announced in honor of his recovery, by a magnificent gala, when the King first appeared in public after his illness. He then looked extremely well, conversing with the Prince of Wales, and many of the nobility, and doing all the honors of the scene with his usual hilarity, and good-humoured condescension.

On Easter Sunday, the twelfth of April, the King again partook of the holy sacrament from the hands of the Bishop of Worcester; on which occasion he was accompanied by the Queen, the three elder princesses, and by several lords and gentlemen and ladies of the court.

The bursts of public loyalty and satisfaction were most conspicuous at the theatre, when the Queen and princesses went to Covent Garden for the first time, on the fifteenth of April. No sooner did the royal party enter their box, than the cheers became almost excessive; and at the same moment the curtain rose, and displayed an appropriate transparency emblematic of the occasion. The Queen was evidently much affected: she burst seasonably into tears, which apparently gave her relief, whilst the princesses sympathized in her sensibility.

The audience were so much affected, that it was actually some time before they could call for "God save the King," which was soon after performed, the whole house joining in the chorus.

On the encore, Her Majesty was sufficiently re-

covered to view the scene around her; and she marked her participation in the general joy, by beating time with her fan.

During the play, Edwin drew down thunders of applause by giving the King's health as a toast; and at the close, the national anthem not being given so speedily from the stage as public impatience demanded, the audience rose, and sung it for themselves; and the Queen cheerfully joining in the encore, it was again sung in the same manner.

A handsome compliment was afterwards paid to the royal pair by Miss Brunton, now Countess of Craven, on the King's first visit to Covent Garden Theatre after his recovery, accompanied by the Queen and princesses, a circumstance which operated to fill the house beyond any thing since his first appearance after the accession.

At the conclusion of the "Dramatist," when Miss B. says to Floriville—"If you would behold pure, unsullied love, never travel out of this country, depend on't,"—she added,

> "No foreign climes such high examples prove
> Of wedded pleasure, or connubial love:
> Long in this isle domestic joys have grown,
> Nurs'd in the cottage, cherish'd on the throne."

In some breasts a suspicion existed that the King was not recovered, because he avoided the extreme fatigue of business, agreeable to the ne-

cessary caution with which he was advised to act after such a severe illness; but though he did not exert himself as usual, he still paid that attention absolutely necessary in affairs of state. He felt anxious also to join his people in a public display of general gratitude to the Giver of all things for his happy recovery; indeed, his mind, ever seriously disposed to public acts of divine worship, could not be said to be completely tranquillized until he paid that debt of thanksgiving in the most solemn manner. The feelings of the man were best expressed in the closet—but of the monarch, could only be in the midst of a moral and a loyal people.

For some weeks after the declaration of his recovery, this solemn service was postponed, although he regularly communicated with the ministers, presided at councils, performed the business of the cabinet, received addresses, and gave audiences to particular persons; and, at length, finding himself equal to the bodily fatigue of a procession, he declared his intention of making his first appearance in public an act of grateful devotion to Heaven, by going in state to St. Paul's Cathedral, on the day already appointed for the celebration of the national thanksgiving.

This extraordinary and affecting ceremony took place on the twenty-third of April, and offered a spectacle to the British empire which far exceeded whatever is recorded of the ceremonies of Pagan adoration, the games of polished Greece, or the

triumphs of imperial Rome. It was the mind of the first nation in the world, co-operating with that of its sovereign in a public act of thanksgiving to Heaven, for its preservation of a good King, and the prosperity of a loyal people.

His Majesty appeared on the occasion under a deep impression of those feelings which became him. He wore a solemn demeanour suited to the circumstances and duty of the day; in which, however, there was nothing to give faction an hope, or loyalty a fear: yet still did the guileful tongue of political calumny spit forth its falsehoods; and a factious sophistry continued to employ its wicked but unsuccessful efforts to propagate doubts as to the real situation of the sovereign's health.

The procession to St. Paul's seems to have excited as much curiosity as if it had been a coronation. Indeed, the universal joy and loyalty which pervaded the cities of London and Westminster, and the grandeur of the spectacle exhibited in the more than triumphal, the religious entry of a beloved sovereign, could not fail to fill the minds of all with such awful ideas as scarcely left room for the contemplation of the splendor of the scene. Windows were rented, and scaffoldings erected, through the whole line of procession; most of them decorated with various ingenious emblematical devices, and all filled to an overflow, many of the spectators having occupied their places during the preceding night.

The appearance of joy, notwithstanding this previous fatigue, was universal; and the ladies, in particular, on this auspicious occasion, exerted every effort to display the effusion of pleasure that swelled their generous breasts, and to give the most efficient testimony, that, regardless of politics, whenever piety, fidelity, and majesty, resume their station, then beauty, genuine sense, and honor, must participate in the general ecstasy. Most of the ladies wore a bandeau, inscribed in gold letters with "Long live the King;" and they sat patiently through a rainy morning until the arrival of the procession, when the sun burst forth, and shed his mild rays upon the splendid scene.

To follow the procession through all its details would be irrelevant to the general plan of this memoir; we shall therefore briefly state that it was composed of the whole of the royal family, the royal household, the ministers and great officers of state, both houses of the legislature, the corporate bodies of London and Westminster, the church, the law, the army, &c. &c. &c. The whole of the regulations were under the King's express orders, and displayed the complete recovery of his mental faculties, as the whole of his behaviour through the trying scene manifested his gratitude to God, and love for his people.

The procession commenced with the House of Commons, followed by the Peers, at a quarter before eight, the King and his royal consort setting off

from the Queen's Palace soon after ten. On his arrival at Temple Bar the city sword was presented to him by the lord mayor, which, being graciously returned, was carried before him by that civic officer, bareheaded; and His Majesty arrived at St. Paul's a few minutes before noon, where all the charity children of the metropolis were assembled to join in the general celebration, at the particular desire of the Queen. When the royal party approached the choir from the great west door of the cathedral, they were struck with one of the most sublime pictures that could be exhibited to a feeling mind—upwards of six thousand fine children of different parishes, neatly clothed in their various uniforms, and so situated as to be seen in one point of view, and saluting their generous benefactors, as they passed, with an anthem to their creator. The whole was a most sublime treat to majesty itself; and so it was expressed. The Queen appeared almost overcome with admiration; His Majesty the same: and in short the whole royal party declared they could have continued an hour upon that spot, had not their attention been called to another scene more splendid, and perhaps equally interesting. This was the multifarious and brilliant spectacle of the company arranged in the choir, whither their majesties proceeded, whilst the children continued to sing part of the hundredth Psalm in full chorus of almost celestial harmony.

After an enchanting musical display of the cathe-

dral service from the best old composers, a most excellent sermon was preached by the Bishop of London, from a text as appropriate, Psalm xxvii. v. 16. "Oh tarry thou the Lord's leisure; be strong, and He shall comfort thine heart; and put thou thy trust in the Lord." After which followed an anthem, expressly selected by the King himself, beginning, "Oh, Lord, thou hast searched me, and found me out," displaying a taste and judgment that could only be surpassed by the piety which prompted it.

The whole service was over about three o'clock, when their majesties left the choir, the children singing part of the 104th Psalm as they passed.

The King on this happy occasion was dressed in the Windsor uniform; and his behaviour during the service was highly devout and impressive. Indeed, throughout the whole day he shewed that he was completely master of himself, handing the Queen out of the coach, and pointing out to her notice every thing worthy of admiration. The Queen herself was the picture of happiness. She and the princesses displayed blue silks, trimmed with white, and bandeaux inscribed "God save the King."

The pleasure received by the whole royal party was fully expressed by their countenances; and so forcibly was it felt by the surrounding throng, that it was actually with the utmost difficulty the congregation could suppress their plaudits, notwithstanding their full recollection of the awful place where they were assembled.

Their majesties returned with the same state as before, to the Queen's Palace; and on both occasions the demonstrations of joy by the myriads in the streets exceeded all expression. Indeed, the acclamations of those crowds were unanimous; and were fully sufficient to convince His Majesty that he truly reigned in the hearts of his people, in spite of all preceding wiles and clamours of party or faction.

On this occasion, the following anecdote is related, highly honorable to his present Majesty. As soon as the service was finished, his Royal Highness hastened to Carlton House, where he changed his dress for the uniform of his regiment, and taking the command of it, proceeded to meet his royal father on his return; thus becoming himself his guide and conductor to the Queen's House. Alighting there, he presented himself at the door, in a manner that required to be seen, in order to be duly and fully understood. It was to the revered monarch—to the beloved parent—that his Royal Highness offered this assistance and respect.

The whole of the preceding scene seemed to convey an unmixed gratification to the royal visitors. The Queen, in particular, appeared remarkably cheerful, both in the procession and the cathedral—His Majesty placid and serene. The ringing of bells was continued through the day; and the church steeples were dressed with flags, especially that of St. Bride's, which, by a whimsical

arrangement, was graced with a large display of colors belonging to the Queen man of war.

Upon the whole, the solemnity was conducted with great order; and in the entire line of march the utmost possible decorum was preserved. The anticipated dangers perhaps conduced to keep the streets more free from overwhelming and riotous crowds than they otherwise would have been: but the arrangements were judicious, and the conduct of the military was most exemplary.

Much indeed was owing to the people themselves, for it was apparent, by the countenances of all, that they came forward with a determination to be in good humour, which turned out to be the truth, the multitude that filled the pathway seeming equally happy with those under cover, or elevated upon the scaffolds: so that those who were stationed to keep them in order had very little more to do than to see the procession with their fellow citizens in the rear. Nay, the military, both officers and men, went much further, for their attention to the spectators on foot was most accommodating, giving them every assistance, and affording them every facility in their power.

After the King's recovery, and before the procession, His Majesty sat to Barry for his portrait. A day or two after the procession, Barry waited upon the King. "Well," said His Majesty, "did you see the grand sight the other day?" Barry answered, that he had an excellent view of the

whole exhibition from a window on Ludgate Hill. "You had the advantage of me then," said the King, "for I saw nothing but the backs of my horses."

It was a singular circumstance connected with the King's recovery, that it was even celebrated in Germany, where, at Ratisbon, the members of the Scotch monastery there declared it to be the most joyful day they ever beheld; when the Abbot Arbuthnot and his religious community appointed the first of May as a thanksgiving in gratitude for that event. All the ambassadors of various courts at the diet, protestants and catholics, with their ladies, the chief magistrates of the city, &c. graced the solemnity in full gala dress, and, without distinction of religion, praised the father of all for the restoration of a beloved monarch. High mass was sung by the abbot, who also chaunted the Te Deum; and not an individual in the city who did not seem to share in the feelings of the day.

When divine service was finished, the Hanoverian minister, in absence of the English one, paid a visit to the abbot to thank him in the name of his court; and the whole affair was highly complimentary to the good sense and loyalty of those Caledonian benedictines.

The promised appearance of His Majesty at court, on his birth-day, was, however, to confirm what was generally wished, and very little doubted—that he was in such a state as might justify the national

hope that he would long be continued as a blessing to his people.

On this birth-day, when the King entered his fifty-second year, the recent occurrences drew together not only the most numerous, but the most splendid assemblage of rank, fashion, and beauty, that ever filled the drawing-room at St. James's.

The King's personal wish was to attend the drawing-room ; but he was persuaded to relinquish the idea, lest the fatigue should be too much for him.

But though his actual absence from the drawing-room on the fourth of June occasioned some fears in the breasts of the loyal ; yet those fears were soon repressed by the public notification of his intention to meet his parliament on the ensuing Tuesday, for the purpose of receiving the new speaker of the House of Commons.

On the eleventh of June, the King went, as announced, in the usual state to the House of Lords ; and was once more seen on the throne of the British empire, appearing to his loyal people in such a state of health and animated satisfaction, as to afford the happiest of prospects—that of enjoying, under his benign reign, a long continuance of national prosperity ; yet, it is a fact, that His Majesty very soon foresaw the consequences of the French revolution, saying, that if a stop was not put to French principles, in a few years there would not be a king left in Europe.

The mental state of the King at this period will be best illustrated by a most interesting detail recorded in a work which is undoubtedly the best collection of literary anecdote that has ever been launched upon the stream of time. To abridge it would be injudicious, we therefore give it entire, from Mr. Nicholls's delightful production.

The late G. Hardinge, Esq. Chief Justice of Brecon, &c. was honored with an interview with their majesties at Windsor, in 1789, after the King's recovery, and the following are the very interesting notes of the conversation.

" I arrived at the Queen's Lodge at twelve ; and was carried to the equerries' room. Colonel Digby came to me civil and gentlemanlike. He chatted with me for half an hour; and when he left me, said, ' he would let the King know, through General Harcourt, that I was there.' In a few minutes I was gallanted up stairs into Madame Schwellenbergen's dining apartment. There I found General Harcourt, who is a very agreeable man. He told me, that when the King (who was going to the Castle to receive the address of the clergy) should come out of his apartment, he would let him know, and receive his commands.

" In a quarter of an hour two royal coaches came to the door, and an equerry handed the Queen into the first. The King followed her without a thought apparently of poor me. Princess Royal and Augusta followed. This filled the first coach.

"No. 2 had Princess Elizabeth and a bed-chamber woman. Then, a-foot, my friends Digby and Harcourt. When they were flown, the porter came to me, and said, 'General Harcourt had named me to the King: but that His Majesty, being in a great hurry, had said nothing. That, if I pleased, I might wait till His Majesty's return; which, the porter said, would be in an hour and a half. This I thought was as much as to say, 'If you go, you will not be missed.' In half an hour Mrs. Schwellenbergen's German footman came to lay the cloth, and produced the dining apparatus. For want of occupation, I formed an acquaintance with him, and learned that Madam Schwellenbergen sat at the head of the table; the Misses (Burney and Planta) right and left of her, and any visitor at bottom. The room is pretty enough, and clean; but furnished with a cheap kind of paper, and linen curtains. Observing a large piece of German bread, I fell to, and ate a pound of it. The hour and a half having expired, the regals returned, and then I heard the Queen most condescendingly say, 'Do find out Mr. Hardinge, and beg of him to come and see us.'

"Her butler out of livery came in to me, and desired me to follow him. I went through a very handsome apartment into another, most beautifully fitted up, with a ceiling of the modern work, 'done,' as the King told me, 'in a week.' Into this room I was shut, and found in it, standing by the fire, without any form, the King, Queen, three prin-

cesses, and this bed-chamber woman, whoever she was, for I have not made her out, but liked her very much, because she seemed to like me. It is impossible for words to express the kind and companionable good-humour of the whole party: I almost forgot that any one of them was my superior.—The King looked fifteen years younger, and much better in the face, though as red as ever. He said a number of excellent things, and in the most natural way. The Queen, with amazing address and cleverness, gave a turn to the conversation, and mixed in it just at the right places. You will not believe me when I tell you that I passed half an hour, at least, in the room.

"The princesses looked, as they always do, the pink of good-humour. The Princess Royal had a very fine color; the two others were pale. The King did a very odd thing by the Princess Royal; but I loved him for it. He said, 'he would ask me, as a man of taste, what I thought of the ceiling?' and then called upon the Princess Royal to explain the allegorical figures on the ceiling; which she did, blushing a little at first, in the sweetest manner, with a distinct voice, and great propriety in her emphasis. This one trait would of itself demonstrate how very kind they were. The King began by asking me 'how I could run away from London, and give up my fees?'—I told him, 'that I never minded fees, but less when they interfered with my sense of duty to him.' The Queen then came up to me, and

said, 'you have less merit in the visit, because a little bird has told me, that you are on your way to your circuit.' This produced the topic of my circuit; and the King said, that 'he understood Moysey to be a good man in domestic life.'

"We then went slapdash into politics, Queen and all. The King laughed heartily at the *Rats*, by that name; and said, 'they were the boldest rats he ever knew, for that all the calculation was against them. *Even* ****** said *it was probable I should recover:* not that *I am* recovered, according to *some* of them: and yet I have read the last report of the physicians, which is a tolerably good proof that I am well.—By the way, your uncle (Lord Camden) is considerably better; and I flatter myself that my getting well has done him good.' I then said, that I had left him in some alarm, how he was to wear the Windsor uniform with a tie-wig over it, from the fear that he should be mistaken for an old general who had fought at the battle of Dettingen. The Queen said, 'Oh, I plead guilty to that; and I see you enjoy it. I said Hardinge will enjoy it; for, though he is good-natured, he loves a little innocent mischief.' The King then told me the whole story of the conference with Pitt, commended the House of Commons, and said his illness had in the end been a perfect bliss only to him, as proving to him how nobly the people would support him when he was confined. This tempted me to say, that it was no political debate, but the contest between

generous humanity and mean cruelty, and it interested human nature. The King seemed very much pleased with this idea, and worked upon it. I commended the conduct of the bishops, and it made them laugh. Said the King, 'You mean to commend it as a *wonder*.' He talked over Lord North and the Duke of Portland. He talked of the chancellor, of Loughborough, and even Mr. Baron Hotham. He said, 'You are almost the only man who love the land for its own sake.' Then we talked of Mrs. Siddons, Jordan, &c. and the Queen said, 'Siddons was going to Germany, to make the English find out by her absence that she was good for something.' Then we flew to Handel: after which the King made me a most gracious bow, and said, 'I am going to my dinner.' I was near the door, made a low bow to the females, and departed."

To perfect His Majesty's recovery, a jaunt to Weymouth was determined on early in the summer, and preparations were made accordingly.

The royal party, consisting of their majesties, with the Princess Royal and Lady Courtoun, in one coach, and the Princesses Elizabeth and Augusta, accompanied by Ladies Elizabeth and Caroline Waldegrave, in another, set off from the Queen's Lodge, Windsor, at seven 'clock on the morning of the twenty-fourth of July. The other attendants consisted of Lord Courtoun, General de Bude, Colonels Goldsworthy and Gwynn, Misses Burney,

Planta, &c. At three o'clock, the royal tourists arrived at Lyndhurst, in Hampshire, near which is the manor of Langley, held as a royalty by the feudal tenure of presenting to the King, whenever he shall come within the limits of the New Forest, a brace of white greyhounds, with silver collars, coupled together with a gold chain, and led by a silken string. The lord of the manor, at that period, was Sir Charles Mills, Bart. an elderly clergyman, who, knowing that His Majesty intended to stop at his house in the forest, and which had been for years occupied by the late Duke of Gloucester, took care to be prepared for this ceremony, and was in due attendance. Colonel Hayward, as principal bowman of the forest, was in waiting to receive His Majesty, attended by all the keepers, in green uniform laced with gold, and ornamented with ribbands, inscribed, "God save the King." They accordingly met the royal party about four miles from Lyndhurst, and rode with them to the entrance of the King's house, round which was an innumerable crowd, upwards of three miles in extent. On alighting, His Royal Highness the Duke of Gloucester received their majesties, whilst the loyal salutations of the assembled people rent the air.

The whole scene, of a mighty monarch familiarly unbending in the midst of his subjects, was gratifying to every breast. After dinner their majesties looked out of the windows, to admire the enchanting prospect; and were instantly hailed by a succession of

national songs, in the choruses of which the Queen and princesses joined with the utmost good humour and affability. In the evening, the King, accompanied by Her Majesty and the princesses, walked round the village, mixing in the simplest manner with the peasantry, and affably noticing all ranks of persons that came in their way during the progress of the ramble.

On the arrival of the royal travellers at Southampton on the twenty-sixth, the King and Duke of Gloucester being on horseback, they proceeded through the town to the audit house, amidst the huzzas of the people, the firing of cannon, the ringing of bells, and every other possible demonstration of joy. At this place His Majesty received a congratulatory address from the mayor and corporation; after which the party walked to the Watergate quay, where they remained a considerable time, to gratify the numerous and anxious spectators, and to contemplate the beauty of the scene. During the whole of the visit, His Majesty seemed in high health and spirits. In his ride through the forest, he expressed much delight with the scenery; and both he and the Queen had often occasion to laugh heartily at some very awkward, but very loyal, salutation of the honest country folks. At the close of their ramble, they called at Colonel Hayward's, where they took chocolate, and expressed their great delight in the scenery and occur-

rences of the day; after which they returned to Lyndhurst to dinner.

In the evening the whole of the royal party walked to an eminence in the forest, called the Duke of Bolton's seat, in order to enjoy the very extensive prospect that may be seen from it. In this route they were attended by a very numerous but respectful body of the tradespeople, who were saved from a complete wetting by His Majesty's skill in the weather; for, on asking the name of a distant object, and being told it was Portsdown Hill, the King, instantly turning round, and looking at a black cloud, said, facetiously, "And pray, colonel, what prospect is that?—I fancy if we don't get home, we shall soon know." In a moment all was hurry to return; and they were just in time to escape from a summer deluge. The evening was spent in domestic amusements, and in witnessing the slight-of-hand tricks of the then celebrated Jones, whom His Majesty instantly recollected, after an interval of twenty years. On the twenty-seventh the King was occupied in the morning in reading despatches from the Duke of Leed's office; after which the royal tourists set off on an extensive excursion through the forest, proceeding to Cuffnells, the seat of the late Mr. Rose; thence to Rufus's stone, an obelisk raised to mark the spot where the second William was slain by the arrow of Sir Walter Tyrrell, glancing from a tree, as it was said, but sup-

posed to have been an intentional stroke to get rid of a tyrant. Their course thence was to Boldrewood, the seat of Lord Delawar, returning to Lyndhurst, where they dined; and in the evening they visited Lymington, alighting at the town-hall to receive the congratulations of the corporation, but were prevented from a walk through the town by the boisterousness of the weather; so that after showing themselves for some time at the windows, they proceeded to enjoy the extensive prospect from Hurl Cliff, about five miles distant, and thence returned to Lyndhurst.

Sunday, the twenty-eighth, was spent in exercises of devotion: the royal family walking to the church without ostentation, and freely mixing in the assembled crowd. The text chosen by the clergyman, the Rev. Willis Compton, on this occasion, was from Colossians, iii. 25: "Set your affections on things above, and not on things on earth:" after which there was the very novel scene of the whole congregation singing "God save the King," accompanied by instrumental music. In the evening, the royal party walked through the town, amidst the blessings and salutations of the people, who were now assembled from all parts of the country in the most astonishing multitudes.

On Monday the journey was continued through Blandford, where His Majesty received an address; through Salisbury, where, as at many other places, triumphal arches were raised, with a hogshead of

strong beer at each: and in the evening they arrived at Weymouth, the corporation, and numbers of the inhabitants, going to the turnpike; from whence they preceded the royal carriages to Gloucester House, whilst royal salutes were fired from a sloop of war, a custom-house cutter, and the fort. The royal arrival was celebrated in the evening by a general illumination.

To enumerate all the occurrences that took place here, would be to exceed the limits of our biography: it is sufficient generally to state that all unnecessary ceremony and restraint were laid aside; that music, walking, riding, and all that belongs to rural life, were adopted to amuse the royal party; in all of which the King joined with the utmost alacrity. Part of every day was occupied either in receiving the formal addresses of the corporation, or the visits of the nobility and gentry of the vicinity; and part spent by the King, on horseback, rambling over the hills and downs, or walking on the esplanade amidst respectfully joyous groups of his loyal subjects. The sabbath day was always passed in the offices of religion, the royal family walking to church without parade or ceremony, but the service always ending with "God save the King."

Thus their majesties led a life of complete rural retirement, dispensing with all but the absolutely necessary appendages of state; and in their religious humility, general benevolence, and family union,

setting daily and hourly an example to their subjects highly worthy of imitation; and the adoption of which can seldom fail to have the strongest tendency to ensure personal, and to diffuse general happiness. In fact, it was noticed that such was their goodness and condescension, that no opportunity was lost of doing good, or of gratifying the wishes of the multitude who flocked from all parts to behold their venerated monarch, happy amidst his loyal and affectionate people.

An additional gratification was frequently given to the crowds who attended their evening walks, by the music of the rooms going on board the King's barge, and performing in the bay, but within hearing of the numerous parties on the esplanade.

In one of the King's excursions, during the hay-harvest, in the neighbourhood of Weymouth, he passed a field where only one woman was at work. His Majesty asked her where the rest of her companions were. The woman answered, they were gone to see the King. "And why did you not go with them?" rejoined His Majesty. "The fools," replied the woman, "that are gone to town, will lose a day's work by it, and that is more than I can afford to do. I have five children to work for." "Well, then," said His Majesty, putting some money into her hands, "you may tell your companions who are gone to see the King, that the King came to see you."

Repeated excursions were also made to the mansions of the nobility and gentry, within the compass of a morning ride: and bathing was adopted both by His Majesty and the princesses.

On the ninth of July, the Magnificent, of seventy-four guns, commanded by Captain Onslow, (afterwards Admiral Sir Richard) came to an anchor in the road, and saluted as usual; and at five in the evening, all the boats of the men of war being sent on shore, their majesties and princesses embarked for a short sail in the bay, and went on board the Southampton frigate, just arrived in attendance on the royal party. The bay was literally covered with pleasure boats, which followed the King into Portland Roads; and the whole scene was most picturesque and impressive.

During the attendance of the men of war, the behaviour of the royal party could not fail to ingratiate them in the honest seamen's good will: and not only was all unnecessary ceremony laid aside, but even regard to personal comfort often dispensed with, under circumstances which often annoy water parties. On one occasion, on the thirteenth, the royal party and suite returned from their sea excursion with a complete ducking; for, notwithstanding the heavy rain, and swell of the sea, neither the King nor the Queen would suffer the awning to be spread, but seemed perfectly to enjoy the frolic, landing in the highest spirits,

and laughing at each other's wet jackets. Even the youthful princesses, though almost literally half drowned, preserved their usual good humour, and laughed at their own mischance, when condolements were offered in all due form and ceremonial.

On one of those occasions, at noon, the lieutenant of the watch, agreeable to nautical custom, informed the captain, whilst conversing with His Majesty, that it was twelve o'clock. "Make it so, sir," replied the captain; meaning to order the bell to be rung for the close of the nautical day, and the commencement of a new one. The King was instantly struck with this, and with a smile observed to the captain—"You, Sir, possess more power than I do: I cannot make it what time I please."

When, on the succeeding day, the Southampton sailed with them on a short cruize, it was the King's express order that no salutes should be fired, nor even the royal standard hoisted, either by the men of war or the barges. In short, it seemed his anxious wish to get rid of all state; indeed, the whole royal party endeared themselves more and more every day to the people on shore, and to the officers and seamen afloat, by their habits of familiarity, condescension, and suavity of manners. Throughout the whole of their excursions, there was on the part of the royal pair no assumption of painful pre-eminence, or imposing superiority. The

awe of state was removed by the ease of the gentleman; and the princesses were the theme of praise from every tongue.

The extraordinary attention of the royal visitors, to the comforts and convenience of all around them, was strongly marked on the fifteenth; when hearing that, on their intended visit to the theatre, the manager proposed the erection of a superb box for their accommodation, they instantly sent a message, with their usual condescending and considerate goodness, forbidding him to incur any unnecessary expense on their account; which was accordingly attended to: and their majesties were highly satisfied with the simple preparation of three rows being raised in front for the reception of themselves and suite.

On the following morning the King was both amused and delighted with a demonstration of simple-hearted loyalty, by the appearance before Gloucester Lodge of two waggons loaded with the peasantry, principally females, who stopped there bareheaded, though under a heavy rain, singing "God save the King," accompanied by three loud huzzas; which was listened to by the royal family, who also kindly exhibited themselves to the honest party. Time now passed on in aquatic trips, public amusements, country rides, sea-bathing, &c.; and on the eighteenth, the royal party, except the Queen, went on board the Magnificent for the first time, when the King behaved with the most

marked condescension, remaining uncovered on the quarter-deck for some time, bowing to the officers as he passed them into the cabin. The behaviour of the princesses was equally conciliatory; and the latter gaily declared, that if they had been boys, the sea should have been their element. Every part of the ship was visited; and the King was so forcibly struck by the whiteness of the decks below, that he observed to the Princess Elizabeth his doubts whether the palace at Windsor could boast of equal cleanliness; indeed, His Majesty was so delighted with the scene, that he promised to Captain Onslow he would bring the Queen to drink tea on board, that she might enjoy equal satisfaction.

The theatre was now become such a favourite resort of royalty, that the manager found himself enabled, by crowded houses, to engage the first Thespian performers; accordingly Mrs. Siddons and Quick were both on his list, and added to the attraction of the scene. On the third of August the whole of the royal party went on board the Southampton, and proceeded to Lulworth Cove, from whence they visited Lulworth Castle, the seat of Mr. Weld, brother to Mrs. Fitzherbert, and a Roman Catholic, where they were received by that gentleman at the vestibule of the venerable castle, eight of his children dressed in uniform being placed on the steps leading up to it. An elegant collation, served up on gold plate prepared for the occasion, richly embossed, and each piece

with the motto of "God save the King," was then partaken of; after which their majesties, &c. proceeded to the chapel, and were highly delighted with an anthem, which was excellently performed, both vocal and instrumental. The pleasure of the visit was so great, that the King prolonged it beyond his original intention; having commanded a play for the evening at Weymouth: so attentive was he, however, to shew a polite remembrance of those left behind, that finding his return at the proper time somewhat doubtful, he with the most marked condescension despatched a servant express, to desire that the farce should be performed at the usual time of opening the house, in order that the audience might not be totally deprived of amusement until his return. This was strongly felt by the audience; and when the royal party made their appearance, the enthusiastic joy with which they were received was highly descriptive of the public sentiment. An equally magnificent and interesting reception, as at Lulworth, awaited the royal visitants at Sherborne Castle, the seat of Lord Digby, on the fourth, where they were met on their entrance into the park by two societies belonging to Sherborne, consisting of upwards of three hundred persons, displaying colors, and accompanied by a band of music. The concourse of people assembled of both sexes, well dressed and happy, from a circle of forty miles, was almost incredible; and the delight of their majesties was extreme, when

on approaching the Castle they were received by a ladies' boarding-school, consisting of nearly forty lovely blooming girls, habited in white uniform, with royal blue ribbands, inscribed, "God save the King;" between whom a passage was formed for their entrance into the house, whilst the charming innocents strewed flowers in their path, like angels sent from heaven.

The King was now understood to have recovered his health in a surprising degree; and addresses upon this happy event poured in from every part of the kingdom: but in the midst of this blaze of loyalty from his own subjects, a most palpable insult was offered to him by those who had once been under his sway. On the sixth of August, being on board the Southampton, on a cruize in the offing, the royal standard flying, and accompanied by the Magnificent, a large American ship, proudly displaying her thirteen stripes, thought proper to pass close to the Southampton under a press of sail, not deigning to pay even the customary salute to a man of war, of lowering her topgallant sails. Of this insult, it was judged improper for the Southampton to take any immediate notice; but the Magnificent instantly made sail after the rude Columbian, and having fired a shot a-head of her, she thought proper to make more than the necessary reparation, by lowering both topgallant sails and topsails, as a mark of deference.

Some slight alteration in ministry took place at

this period, by the Marquis of Graham coming in as joint paymaster of the forces, and Lord Chesterfield as master of the Mint; on which the whole of the cabinet, and other members of the council, arrived at Weymouth for despatch of business. The affairs of state being disposed of, the whole of the ministerial party accompanied the royal mariners in their usual cruize. The compliments paid to Mr. Pitt during the whole of his visit were highly marked; and the people every where evinced their sense of his recent patriotic exertions by repeated shouts of "The King and Pitt for ever!!!"

As usual, the church was regularly attended on the ninth of August; and in the evening of that day, their majesties, with the utmost condescension, accompanied by the princesses, and attended by their suite, drank tea at the assembly rooms, mixing in the most familiar manner with the nobility and gentry, to the number of upwards of two hundred, assembled there to receive them.

The King intending to visit Plymouth by land, the Southampton was ordered to proceed to that port, whilst the whole royal party set off on the thirteenth, stopping for a short time at Bridport, where they were received by the corporation, preceded by the union societies, consisting of upwards of three hundred persons, walking in procession with colours flying, bells ringing, and music playing before them "God save the King." Triumphal arches, elegantly ornamented, were erected at each end of

the town, through which their majesties passed; and numerous emblematical devices of loyalty were exhibited on the church and other public buildings. On one of the arches, ornamented in a very good style with wreaths of roses, laurels, &c. was a complimentary inscription of "Health and prosperity to the House of Brunswick!" The same demonstrations of loyalty were manifested at Charmouth; at Axminster, where the royal party visited the celebrated carpet manufactory; and at Honiton, where, in addition to what was done at other places, the woolcombers met their majesties, with all the insignia of their trade; whilst at the turnpike the royal carriages were surrounded by upwards of three hundred and fifty young ladies, all decorated with white ribbands—a sight which could not fail to be singularly interesting, and, in fact, drew tears of sensibility from every individual of the royal party.

In the evening their majesties arrived at Exeter, where they slept, and were received by the mayor and corporation, attended by bands of music, and surrounded by immense crowds, with every possible demonstration of loyalty. After stopping one day at Exeter, to see every thing worth notice, the royal tourists proceeded towards Plymouth, visiting Saltram, the seat of Lord Boringdon, where they remained during the Sabbath-day, the sixteenth, and were joined by the Duke of York and Colonel Fitzroy, and also by the Duke of Richmond and

Lord G. Lennox. On the seventeenth, in the morning, His Majesty, with his family, arrived at Plymouth Dock, where they were received with all the honors of a garrison town, and immediately afterwards proceeded in barges, in grand naval procession, on board the Impregnable of ninety guns, Admiral Sir Richard Bickerton. The scene was much heightened by the novel exhibition of a very handsome man of war's cutter, rowed by six young women, and steered by a seventh, all habited in loose white gowns, with nankeen safeguards, and black bonnets, each wearing a sash across her shoulder of royal purple, with "Long live their majesties," in gold characters. These Devonshire mermaids kept close to the royal barge during the whole of the excursion, and attracted the notice not only of the King, but of the whole royal party.

The eighteenth was distinguished by a grand naval review of a squadron under Commodore Goodall, consisting of seven sail of the line and a frigate, which was inspected by His Majesty from the Southampton, accompanied by the Queen and princesses, and attended by the lords of the admiralty, &c. To detail all the evolutions is here unnecessary: it is sufficient to state, that as each ship passed the royal standard, she cheered, after which the whole fired a royal salute. In fact, the scene, at a distance of some leagues in the offing, was beautiful beyond description, as upwards of one hundred vessels, of all sizes, were assembled on the occasion,

either on service or by curiosity; and the whole of the royal party expressed the highest delight with this novel exhibition.

On a visit to the dock-yard, on the ensuing day, nothing passed unnoticed by His Majesty. He minutely examined every thing in the yard, particularly the mode of coppering the ships; whilst every process was executed in the various departments for his inspection. On his visit to the Victualling Office, on the twentieth, he was very particular in his inquiries respecting the quality of the provisions; tasting the biscuit, and ordering some of the beef to be sent to Saltram for the same purpose. He also took a minute survey of the citadel, of all the military works, and of the gun-wharf; and examined all parts of Hamoaze, proceeding afterwards to the Maker Tower; assiduously accompanied, whilst afloat, by the party of mermaids already mentioned. A visit to Mount Edgecumbe, from whence the views are most enchanting, filled up the twenty-first; and on this occasion the Princess Royal observed to her sister that it was only recently they had seen the beauties of nature in perfection—that their lives hitherto had been spent rather in a cloister than in a kingdom, abounding every where with such lovely prospects, and inhabited by so generous a people.

After a splendid dinner, the Earl and Countess of Mount Edgecumbe sitting at the royal table, the party proceeded by water to Saltram, sur-

rounded by boats filled with thousands of genteel people, all manifesting their admiration and loyalty by the heartiest and most expressive demonstrations.

Several days were spent in these and similar excursions; and on the twenty-eighth the royal party arrived again at Weymouth, being received with the usual naval and military ceremonies.

Hitherto the theatre had been a constant source of amusement, not only to the royal party, but also to the public, who thronged to it every night in order to witness the performances of our modern Melpomene: that lady, however, having thought proper to raise the prices to the London standard, the public sentiment was very plainly expressed on the evening of the twenty-ninth, when, even though Isabella might have been considered a loadstone, the receipts of the house were not forty shillings above the necessary expenses.

On a nautical excursion on the thirty-first, the Queen paid a very handsome compliment to Captain Douglas, of the Southampton, presenting him with a small gold medallion of that ship, to be worn by Mrs. Douglas as an ornament attached to her necklace; and in the course of this and several succeeding trips, the King was highly delighted with the sailors' hornpipes, and with their boisterous amusements, in which they were graciously encouraged;*

* One of the honest tars, who professed to be a poet, with the assistance of his messmates, got up a song upon this occasion, which was sung to the tune of one of their own hornpipes: a short specimen will suffice.

but more especially with the naval mode of performing divine service, which took place on board the Magnificent, on Sunday, the sixth of September, when the whole of the royal family, with a long train of nobility, went on board that ship for the express purpose. To give an idea of this, we may state that an awning was spread over the quarter-deck, whilst flags of all nations were hung round from the poop to the mainmast, completely inclosing the space like a large apartment. The binnacle was fitted up as an altar, serving also the purpose of a pulpit. On the starboard side were placed chairs for the King, Queen, and princesses; on the opposite, accommodations for the nobility and royal suite; whilst a-midships sat the officers, behind whom were ranged the ship's company,

"Portland Road, the King aboard, the King aboard,
Portland Road, the King aboard,
We weighed and sailed from Portland Road.

The King he sat with a smile on his face, a smile on his face,
The King he sat with a smile on his face,
To see the after-guard splice the main brace.

The princesses sat upon the skids, upon the skids,
The princesses sat upon the skids,
To see the midshipmen play with the kids, &c. &c. &c."

To our readers who are not nautical, it may be necessary to state that the splicing the main brace, which afforded such amusement to His Majesty, was the customary operation of serving out a dram, in addition to the allowance to the seamen, when they have been for any time exposed to a heavy in.

seated on forms erected out of the capstan bars, placed upon match tubs and shot boxes, so as to form a gradual elevation, like the pit of a theatre. It was remarked at the time, that the great uniformity of appearance, the attention and solemnity observed on this novel occasion, were awful, and did much credit to every man on board; whilst the sovereign himself seemed to feel the full force of the scene. The Rev. Mr. Clifton, chaplain of the Goliath, performed the service, accompanied by a very applicable and most excellent discourse, delivered impressively, but with a pleasing and respectful diffidence, before the august visitants, who were very attentive to it, especially towards the close, when the preacher ventured on a modest but well-written panegyric on the best of kings, for the excellent example he had ever shewn his subjects upon all occasions, but more especially in his due performance of religious duties. It was observed by the spectators that this part of the discourse wound up the feelings of the royal family; and Her Majesty, in particular, could not refrain from expressing them by her tears. The Princess Elizabeth also most strongly caught the same emotions as her mother at this part of the sermon, and expressed them as feelingly. No sooner was the service over, than the King stepped forward, and addressed Mr. Clifton, thanking him for his sermon, hoping he was not fatigued, with several other marks of condescension; in which he was

cordially joined by the Queen, who particularly requested that the discourse might be transcribed for her future inspection. The whole of the royal family now retired to the cabin to partake of a collation; after which the Princess Elizabeth, expressing a strong desire to see the ship's company at their dinner, was conducted to the break of the quarter-deck, where she remained some time, highly delighted with the rude scene of comfort, and diffusing her smiles to every tar that came near to her place of observation.

Aquatic excursions still continued, intermingled with visits to the rooms, where the royal party joined in every amusement without fastidious ceremony, playing cards in the public apartments, mixing in the dance on the part of the princesses, and all taking leave at the close of the evening, as if the mere friendly equals of the assembled company.

On the fourteenth, the royal family departed from Weymouth, under every official and every public mark of respect and loyalty, and followed by the prayers of the poor, both of the town and vicinity, to whom they had been constant and liberal benefactors; and on the evening of the eighteenth, after passing through Trowbridge, Devizes, and Marlborough, they arrived at Windsor, amidst the applauses and illuminations, &c. &c. of the happy townspeople.

It is a remarkable fact, that not only had re-

peated attempts been made on His Majesty's life at different periods of his reign, but that, even almost from his coronation, he had been accustomed to receive anonymous letters, threatening assassination. Of these, several were sent during his residence at Weymouth; but they never operated to prevent his unostentatious manner of riding out, attended only by a single equerry, and a servant in livery. Some of these letters indeed went so far as to warn him not to ride out on particular days, or on particular routes; but these never made the slightest impression on him; nay, he always chose the interdicted days and routes for his equestrian excursions, observing, that he was well aware that any man, who chose to sacrifice his own life, could take away his at any time; and he hoped, if they did attempt it, the attempt would not be made in a brutal or barbarous manner. When speaking of these things to his confidential friends, his manner was always calm and serene, and perfectly devoid of fear or apprehension.

On the thirty-first of October the remunerations to the physicians were finally settled. These consisted of £1500. per annum for twenty-one years to the elder Dr. Willis; £650. per annum for life to Dr. Willis, his son; with thirty guineas per visit to Windsor, and ten guineas per visit to Kew, to each of the other physicians, which, to Sir George Baker, who was longest in attendance, amounted to about 1,300 guineas.

1790.

New-year's day, in 1790, was the first occasion on which the annual poetical compliment to majesty was omitted. It must be observed, indeed, that, contrary to former invariable custom, there was no court on that day; nor did the King appear much in public during the early part of the month, until the prorogation of Parliament, when, as His Majesty was proceeding to the House of Lords on the twenty-first of January, just as he was passing towards the Horse Guards, a person of genteel appearance threw a large stone with great violence into the carriage, which narrowly missed the royal person. On this the assailant was instantly apprehended, and appeared to be a half-pay lieutenant of the Royals, James Frick by name, the same person who had affixed a paper on the whalebone, in the court-yard of St. James's, some weeks before, filled with a jumble of incongruities, and which he termed a manifesto.

After a strict examination by the privy council, he was committed to Newgate; but on trial was declared insane, and accordingly disposed of as usual in such cases.

The King's birth-day this year was the first on which the mail coaches were exhibited in procession, when sixteen, drawn by sets of blood horses, in plated harness, the coachman's and guard's ham-

mercloths in scarlet and gold, paraded from the manufactory at Milbank to the Palace, and thence to the post-office, as now annually exhibited.

In October His Majesty, as a mark of distinction and respect for the venerable Bishop of Worcester, sent him two full-length portraits of himself and royal consort, copied from Gainsborough's admired pictures at Buckingham House, which Dr. Hurd immediately fixed up in the great drawing-room of the episcopal palace, over the fire-place, with an oval tablet between, of white marble, on which was a Latin inscription, in letters of gold, informing the spectator of the circumstances of the royal gift.

Another instance of His Majesty's condescension and regard for the professors of arts and literature was manifested in his conduct on the resignation of the chair of the royal academy by Sir Joshua Reynolds in 1790; when, at one of the meetings of that body, a letter was read from Sir William Chambers to Sir Joshua, written in consequence of Sir William's interview with the King in an early stage of the business, and which, among other flattering marks of the sovereign's favor, expressed that His Majesty would be happy in Sir Joshua's continuing in the president's chair.

This condescending encouragement did not, however, prevent Sir Joshua's resignation; yet His Majesty did not feel offended at the refused compliance, as announced in a reply from the artist to

Sir William. Nay, he even cheerfully granted subsequent permission to Sir Joshua to resume the chair some time after, when the office was pressed upon him by a deputation from the academy.

It must be observed, indeed, that Sir Joshua's refusal was highly respectful, and most carefully worded—" that he inferred his conduct must have been hitherto satisfactory to His Majesty; and if any inducement could make him depart from his original resolution, the will of his sovereign must prevail."

It has been said that the appointment of Sir Joshua was, in the first instance, not so pleasing to His Majesty as that of Mr. West would have been. On that point we shall not hazard an express opinion; but it is certain that Mr. West was a great favorite with the King, even long before he was appointed Surveyor General of the Royal Paintings. With Mr. West, the King was always familiar. That venerable artist has been heard to relate that, being one day in the presence of the monarch, His Majesty familiarly asked him how old he was; and Mr. West having stated the number of his years, the King rejoined, " Then when I die, West, you will shake in your shoes."

We have seen it also stated, that it was the King who first suggested to that eminent artist the professional study of the scripture history, and desired him to bring his drawings to the palace for his in-

spection. Mr. West did so; and, coming at a time when the sovereign had with him some dignified clergy of the highest order, the company were all gratified with the sketches, and particularly with their accordance with the sacred text; affording proof of the painter's acquaintance with the scriptures. "And do you know how that was?" said His Majesty to the prelate who made the remark. "Not exactly, your majesty." "Why, my lord, I will tell you: Mr. West's parents were Quakers, and they teach their children to read the bible very young—I wish that was more the case with us, my lord."

Another anecdote on this subject has been related, that when His Majesty once signed a diploma of a new academician, being attended, as customary, by the president and officers, he took up the painting which had been brought as a specimen of the artist's genius; then looking at it for some time, turned round to a young student in the art, whom he liberally patronized, and said—"Sir, if ever you paint such a picture as this, I will withdraw my favor! Come, Mr. West, give me the diploma: the sooner I get rid of this disagreeable business the better."

Speaking of youthful artists patronized by His Majesty, we may enumerate the late Mr. Hopner, who, we understand, was educated by the King, being first placed at an early age in the Royal

Chapel, under the care of Dr. Ayrton, for vocal purposes; but even then the amiable artist evinced such an inclination for the arts, that His Majesty determined to encourage him, beneficently bestowing on him an annuity for the purpose, and placing him under Dalton, who at that period held the place of librarian in the royal library. On this subject we fully agree with the late intelligent artist, Dayes, that it is impossible to speak of the arts, without expressing gratitude towards that great patron, whose name, were it to flourish in no other way, must be equally sacred to posterity with those of Leo, Julius, and all such as have a claim to the title of protectors of the arts. Indeed, Mr. Dayes most truly adds, that His Majesty did for the arts what no monarch of this nation had ever done before; giving, by his patronage, a turn to the national taste highly beneficial to the profession, and which the public are now bound to support by a liberal and fair encouragement. In a pecuniary point of view, and with regard to the mere act of buying, it was justly said, that it was proper to consider the King in the light of a private gentleman, who regulates his expenditure according to his income, and also that we ought to be thankful it is so.

We have seen a whimsical anecdote on this subject, which here deserves a place.

Mr. Sharp, the very excellent painter of comic subjects, obtained His Majesty's patronage from the

following circumstance. During his pupilage with Sir William Beechey, he and his master were at Windsor Castle, painting for the King; young Sharp was left in the painting-room, to prepare some colours; and while earnestly engaged in his business, he heard the repeated cry of Sharp! Sharp! Sharp! which is used as an abbreviation of the term, '*look sharp*,' and which imports this meaning to the domestics of the King's household, that the King is coming, and every one must be in his station to receive His Majesty, in the different apartments through which he usually passes to his own chamber. From the manner in which Sharp was called, he thought something unpleasant had happened to Sir William Beechey, and in the utmost confusion ran down stairs, where, on the turning of the staircase, he stumbled over His Majesty, and nearly threw him down. When the King recovered himself, he asked poor trembling Sharp his name, and who he was, and then went on. Some of His Majesty's attendants immediately began to lecture him very severely, on being in the way when notice had been given that the King was coming. Sharp said very innocently, that he was called in a great hurry, and he ran down stairs, under an impression that Sir William Beechey had been taken suddenly ill. This occasioned the gentlemen in waiting to ask the name of the young artist, who replied that his name was *Sharp*. An immediate laugh followed the reply; the King was instantly made acquainted

with the particulars of the accident, and was so well pleased with the joke, that he proceeded to the painting-room, and entered into a familiar conversation with Sharp on the whimsical incident. From this time young Sharp became the object of the King's notice, and His Majesty ever after patronized him. The Queen, Princesses, and the King, sat to him; and his portraits of the family are highly esteemed.

When the convention was settled with Spain, in regard to the affair of Nootka Sound, the corporation of London waited upon the King on the twenty-fourth of November, to express their gratitude upon the agreeable prospect of a continued peace, but approving, at the same time, the warlike measures which had led to that result.

To this address His Majesty answered, that the protection of the navigation and commerce of the empire was at all times a principal object of his attention; that he was confident of the unanimous support of the nation in their defence; but that it was to him the highest pleasure that he had been enabled to maintain them without actual hostility. It was observed that on this occasion he looked remarkably well and cheerful, and that he delivered his answer with pleasing benignity, and characteristic elegance, speaking in a tone that vibrated to the hearts of his auditors, and betokened high health and satisfaction.

His Majesty had ever been patron of the Royal

Society of Musicians, established in the year of his birth, and of which the Queen also was patroness; and he gave them a substantial proof of his favor this year, by incorporating them with a royal charter.

Our late venerable sovereign was also patron and father of the Royal Society, being the oldest member belonging to it. During the whole course of his long reign he shewed a marked attention to that learned body, by placing at their disposal considerable sums of money towards the promotion of science, particularly in 1760 and 1769, for observing the transit of Venus in various parts of the globe.

A most important era in the history of Britain and of mankind was now approaching. In order to appreciate it more fully in regard to the venerated object of this memoir, let us pause for a moment to contemplate the real patriot King, the man to whom Britain and mankind owe so much!

That the situation of a sovereign is little to be desired has long been the theme of moralists—that it is as little to be envied is equally true; but perhaps has never been more wittily expressed than about this period, by a young lady of beauty and high fashion, during a conversation which turned upon the subject of splendor and wealth, a subject which, of course, met with many, and animated advocates.

In the midst of this disquisition the lady ob-

served with much naïvete, that for her part she had no ambitious thoughts, and was perfectly well satisfied with her condition:—"I do not," said she, "even envy majesty itself. Take away the externals, and it remains but a jest."

It is no easy task to decide whether His Majesty has been most exemplary as a father or as a husband.* Considered in the character of the latter,

* Her Majesty's figure was very pleasing, but her countenance, though not without attraction when she smiled, could not boast any claim to beauty. It is the lot of greatness to provoke enmity, and draw upon itself the shafts of calumny. Her Majesty did not escape this common destiny; but they who were most forward to arraign her conduct were too often those whose own conduct excluded them from her notice and approbation. Fertile as England is, and we hope will continue to be, of females no less illustrious by their virtues, than by their rank and accomplishments, it would be impossible to name one who more faithfully discharged the duties of domestic life than did her late Majesty: and this is the noblest praise that can belong to a Queen of England. The Queen has been frequently charged with economy. This charge, if true, what would it amount to? Economy is always considered by spendthrifts as a mean, pitiful quality: but how much inconvenience, how much meanness, how much sacrifice of honor and principle, would they avoid, were they to follow its golden rules! We are aware that this admirable quality may be carried to an excess; but we are by no means aware that Her Majesty did so, unless a predilection for simple enjoyments merits that imputation.

It is an undoubted fact, that Her Majesty distributed large sums of money in the exercise of private charity; but her charity was really private, not ostentatiously performed, that the world might applaud the giver. It was an express injunction, which

he manifested nothing but tenderness, affection, and indulgence, with a heart susceptible of every

accompanied every act of benevolence on her part, that it should be kept secret. To each nurse of her children she gave a pension of £200. a-year, as well as to several of their sons. Among the many instances of her character, we may select the following: Her Majesty took charge of, and educated the orphan child of an officer who died in the West Indies. The child was brought to England by the serjeant of the regiment. The Queen's notice was attracted by an advertisement in the public papers, from the serjeant. Her Majesty not only educated this child, but caused him to be amply provided for. It is a fact equally known, that the Queen took under her protection the widow of an officer killed at Bunker's-hill, and educated her son. These two facts are mentioned, not as solitary instances of Her Majesty's humane, charitable, and honorable feelings and disposition, but to shew the nature of the application of the large sums of money supposed to have been in her possession. Many a retired and solitary sufferer has been cheered by her munificence, without knowing the hand from which the succour proceeded. From political affairs she kept studiously aloof. The only occasion upon which she departed from this course was one that fully justified the aberration. We allude to the first Regency question. The part she then took was equally honorable to her as a sovereign and as a wife. In the former capacity she adhered to the constitution: in the latter she asserted the rights of her husband, when Providence had incapacitated him from defending them himself. Her conduct, as might be expected, created some enemies; but they were enemies only because she would not sacrifice to their feelings of party spirit her own better feelings and unbiased judgment.

Those who have connected the Queen with the transactions of this reign, and ascribed to her an ascendant influence, have merely betrayed their ignorance of the means by which the political machine is moved. They have also tried to fix upon

domestic pleasure. As a father he was severe without being morose, familiar without any relaxation

her the blame of events over which she had no control. But in their eager desire to discover imaginary, at least trifling defects, they have overlooked her substantial virtues---the unsullied purity of her private life, and the noble example she afforded to the women of Great Britain. Upon the conduct of that sex mainly rests the edifice of public as well as private morals ; and it is but just to trace to the example which has been given from the throne for the last fifty years much of that purity by which the female character is still distinguished in this country. During that time, no woman, however elevated her rank, or powerful her connexions, if her reputation was known to have suffered the slightest taint, was permitted to appear in the presence of Her Majesty.

An anecdote is related of the Queen, which forcibly illustrates the lofty principles of moral virtue that always influenced her conduct with regard to the ladies who formed her court. An application was made to Her Majesty to receive a titled female, whose name was not free from taint. The request was immediately refused. "What shall I say to my friend?" answered the intercessor. "Tell her," replied the Queen, "that you did not dare to ask me:" an answer worthy of a Roman matron, and conveying, at the same time, a keen reproof to the lady who had dared to make such a solicitation.

When faction raged furiously against the King, not a reproachful word was uttered to the disparagement of the Queen, who, by steering clear of all parties, and preserving a steady deportment in private life, secured universal esteem and admiration. The King cherished for her the fondest affection, and his mother placed in her unbounded confidence. A numerous family blessed the nuptial bed, and cemented the ties of love. The virtues of the Queen expanded with her cares; and in maternal attention, as well as in conjugal attachment, she shone a bright example in an evil age. Her children were not left solely to

of parental authority, and always affectionate, but without that weakness which often makes youth too presuming. Of his personal kindness to his children, the following anecdote will be sufficient proof.

Some years ago, many individuals were infected, by the influence of fashion, with a disease, mental only we presume, whimsically called *porcelani-mania*, or the propensity to gather old jugs, tea-pots, and every other kind of earthenware that bears the stamp of age and ugliness. In one instance this mania turned to a remarkably good account. A late collector of great celebrity hearing that one of His Majesty's amiable daughters had been seized with the malady, thought it a good opportunity to gain her favor by some offerings suited to her particular fancy. With this view he visited all the blind alleys and courts where such things were likely to be found, and in a little time his stock was considerable. The next step was to communicate a selection to the princess, in doing which there was little difficulty. The old pieces of china were of course much admired, and when her royal highness was humbly requested to accept

attendants and tutors. She had them continually under her own inspection; and even in the hours of relaxation from study, they were hardly ever out of her sight. She was their first instructor; nor, when they were advancing in their studies under their respective teachers, did the Queen neglect to examine into their progress in learning, or intermit her own prelections, whenever she found an opportunity and occasion for them.

them, she felt quite enraptured with the acquisition, though very reluctant to deprive the owner of such valuables. Having thus secured his footing in the good graces of the princess, our virtuoso very wisely followed it up, by adding an article now and then to her collection, always keeping the choicest in reserve for the great object which he had in view. Such repeated attentions did not fail to call forth many acknowledgments, and sincere wishes to return the obligation in some manner or other. To all these expressions of kindness the answer was uniform, that the collector was amply rewarded by the condescension with which he was treated by the illustrious personage. At length, however, a situation, not more than three thousand a-year in value, was about to be vacant, for the possessor, an antiquary also, lay on his death-bed. The time was now come, therefore, for the decision of our collector's fortune: he packed up his most precious cargo of japan; and, having at all times access to his patroness, he astonished her by this inestimable addition to her store. She was now so completely oppressed, that nothing could set her mind at rest till she had evinced how deeply she was affected by her worthy friend's goodness. On this the collector humbly presumed to inform the princess, that though he never had been moved by any other ambition than that of gratifying her taste, yet there happened just then to be an object, which, if it could be procured by her gracious in-

terest, would make him the happiest man in the world. The princess was impatient to know what it was; and that very instant hastened to her excellent father to urge the request, that her much valued friend might succeed to the expected vacancy. The King, who had long penetrated into the secret views of this apparently disinterested virtuoso, could not refrain from laughing: but, after much importunity, he said, "Well, well: go along; your china merchant must be paid for his mugs I suppose, but let me tell you, that the price is unconscionable."

Much as has been said of the increase of vice in latter days—an increase we shall not deny, considering the increase of population and of luxury, we have, perhaps, very ample reason to be grateful that the increase has not been much greater. And to whom are we indebted for this? We shall at once say, under Providence, to the virtuous pair who so long filled the throne of Great Britain.

To God, our first thanks are due; but let us not be unmindful of the instruments which he was graciously pleased to raise up for our happiness and moral improvement.

At the commencement of the reign, vice was advancing with rapid steps into the recesses of private life; and it is to the throne that we owe the check which was put upon its progress. In fact, it had already taken such high ground in the empire of fashion, that nothing but the example

of the monarch, and his prudent, though so youthful bride, could have driven it into disgrace and privacy.

The first efficient duties fell upon the Queen; and well has it been said, that pure and immaculate herself, she from the first required that the same qualities should attach to her court, refusing to consent to any act of self-degradation, or to identify herself with those who had stained their reputation. Indeed, as the presentation to the drawing-room was then most particularly considered as the sole introduction to high life, she had a powerful weapon to wield; and she wielded it to good purpose, by at once proscribing from her society all females of bankrupt or even of ambiguous character—demi-reps, as they were then called; never admitting to her public or private parties any lady, however high in rank, if she had on the slightest degree forfeited her claims to general respect.

The palace thus became like the sanctuary of religion and virtue, where, like the good genius of the place, she sat with a magic circle around her, over which no unhallowed footstep could pass.

This scrupulous observance of propriety of conduct in the higher ranks soon found its way into all the subordinate gradations of society; and we can safely assert, whatever those of morbid sensibility may say to the contrary, that in proportion as the higher circles became virtuous and discreet, and in proportion as they left off French manners

and French fashions, so the descending ranks improved their morals by copying their examples, and formed their manners by the improved practice.

To those who only know society since the importation of the dissolute habits and shameful nudities of the French revolution, this may appear exaggerated; but to those whose memory extends through half a century, we fearlessly call for justification.

This amelioration, first begun with the fair sex, had soon an evident improvement upon the male, notwithstanding the macaronies, the fops, the bucks, the bloods, &c. who then disgraced society, like the dandies and exquisites of the present day; and in proportion as the loveliest part of society were accustomed to hold themselves in due reverence, to maintain their own dignity, and to preserve their own worth unsullied, so did they now begin to be respected, worshipped, and paid homage to by the men.

In fact, patriotism was now fixed upon a sure foundation. He who could depend upon the truth of his partner—he who could look round his *fireside*, and call every thing there *his own*, could not fail to love the country which contained such blessings; and to that increased love of country, thus engendered and nurtured, it is not going too far to say, that Britain is indebted for her escape from French revolution, and from French invasion and

plunder. For this happy nation GOD raised up *virtue* as our shield and defence—it is now our duty to be grateful.

Such are some of the results of the royal system, aided as it was by the co-operation, support, and advice of our lamented monarch; all of whose actions were in strict unison and concert with the virtuous plans of the partner of his heart. Throughout the whole of their long reign, their private economy, their domestic arrangements, were a pattern to every class of their subjects. Employing their whole influence to arrest the torrent of fashionable dissipation, they never gave the slightest sanction by their authority, by their example, or their neglect, to any innovation on the established and accredited moral usages of life. They never allowed novelty to be an excuse for admitting specious refinements on ancient discipline, nor for weakening or abrogating the calls to the moral duties. They never for a moment permitted it to be believed that rank could confer any privilege to violate the laws of moral order; but by their practice evinced their own belief that it rather founded an additional claim for the strictest compliance with the behests of virtue.

One great object with them was to do away a silly prejudice, then daily becoming more fashionable, that a husband and wife should never be seen together. In this respect, indeed, they set a splendid example, shewing themselves to be, when

not prevented by state affairs or ceremonies, what God and nature intended a married pair should be in the mutual offices of protector and companion; always filling up the intervals of public duty by domestic endearments, whether in the shades of retirement, or joining in public scenes, as they often did, laying aside all the reserve of royalty, and mixing with their subjects in every laudable and innocent amusement.

Respecting domestic arrangements, the King had some peculiar habits. Buckingham House, for instance, was embellished with the choicest works of art from Hampton Court, Windsor, and the old palace at Kensington. There also were the cartoons of Raphael* for many years; and even when they

* Raphael painted them for the adornment of the Vatican, under the protection of Julius II. and Leo X., and sent them to be copied in tapestry in Flanders, at that time excelling in this species of manufactory: but from a variety of circumstances, great delay occurred in the completion of this process, and they were not finished till considerably after Raphael's death, and the sacking of the city of Rome, in 1527. The originals remained neglected in the work-rooms of the manufactory, owing to the revolution that followed soon after in the Low Countries, which put an end to all encouragement of the fine arts. The seven cartoons in question, however, escaped the wreck of others, which were considerably mutilated, and parts only of which are preserved in different collections abroad. Rubens bought the seven and only perfect ones for Charles I. and Cromwell afterwards pawned them to the Dutch. Then it was that they fell into the hands of the Spanish court, when, being on their passage, the galleon was captured by an English vessel, and the

were removed to Windsor, still the collection at the Queen's palace was very rich, as containing incontestably the most valuable paintings belonging to His Majesty as private property; notwithstanding which, the apartments in that palace, in regard to furniture, were by no means fitted up in a style of elegance equal even to the dwellings of the opulent in the metropolis.

A small portion of it might be considered as sumptuous; but the greater part was old fashioned; and there was not a single carpet to be seen throughout the mansion, His Majesty really considering it as a fashion too effeminate for adoption. It may be observed, however, that the grand drawing-room was fitted up in the modern style, and

chests or packages in which the cartoons were deposited (containing, we must suppose for the sake of concealment, muskets and other military instruments) were carried to Hampton Court, and placed in one of the anti-chambers, or scene-rooms of the Great Hall of Audience, at that time fitted up as a theatre for the entertainment of King William's court. Sir Godfrey Kneller, the great painter of crowned heads, having occasion for specimens of foreign military weapons to illustrate his warlike trophies in the adornment of the palace, had recourse to these Spanish chests, as likely to afford patterns of weapons used by that nation in combat; and in his search, at the bottom of the packages, he found some painted strips, which, on examination, his penetrating eye discovered to be these matchless master-pieces of the immortal Raphael. From that moment they have continued to be the pride and boast of the English nation: and but for this accidental circumstance, they might have lain in concealment till entirely destroyed by time.

with peculiar taste and elegance, as the embroideries were the industrious handy-work of the royal daughters. Most of the ancient paintings had been selected with great taste and judgment by the King himself; and many modern works of native artists were to be found there: indeed, the walls of one entire apartment were covered with large paintings by Mr. West, and with prints from some others of his best works.

Gainsborough's pictures also were numerous: and the royal collection of miniatures was very fine.

In literature, as the King spared no expense, so his private library in town was very voluminous, but at the same time very choice. It occupied two long rooms, and a very fine rotunda, lighted from above; where the venerable monarch used often to pass his mornings, even when literary men, particularly Dr. Johnson, were not excluded. Yet, with all his wish to make his library valuable, he practised great forbearance. Indeed, of that, and of his zeal for general literature, a stronger proof could not be manifested than in the order which he gave to the person whom he commissioned to purchase books for the library at Buckingham House—never to bid a farthing against a scholar, or professor, or indeed any person of moderate means, desiring a particular volume for his own use.

At this mansion, private levees, balls, concerts, and other entertainments, divested of court etiquette, were frequently given; and with a degree of ex-

emplary prudence highly praiseworthy; they were, generally speaking, less splendid than many of those given by private individuals; not from parsimony, however, as was idly said, but from pure affability, which wished to waive all splendor, except the personal splendor that must always accompany royalty, and thereby render the guests as happy as at home.

The King's fondness for hunting was often ridiculed; but it ought to be recollected that his great object was to adopt the severest exercise in order to repress corpulency. In the pursuit of this amusement he was always condescendingly happy to be accompanied by his subjects of every rank; and he never failed to find out, and converse with, all those who appeared to be daring riders.

Indeed, whenever he understood that from the arrivals at Windsor there was a probability of a full field, he always directed a stag of speed and bottom to be selected for turning out; and even increased the number of his hunting days, in order to gratify persons of respectability, who came down expressly for that amusement. We have also seen an anecdote of two young Eton scholars, who, whilst spending their holiday with a friend at Sunning Hill, had wandered into the forest, where they met a fresh looking old gentleman in the Windsor uniform, who stopped them, and jestingly asked if they were playing the truant? They gave an account of themselves, and said that they had come to see the

King's stag-hounds throw off. "The King does not hunt to-day," said the kind stranger, "but when he does I will let you know; and you must not come by yourselves, lest you meet with some accident. They parted; and two or three days after, while the family at Sunning Hill were at breakfast, one of the royal yeomen prickers rode up to the gate, to acquaint them that the King was waiting till he brought the two young gentlemen to a place of safety, where they might see the hounds throw off.

His attention to the pleasures of his subjects he manifested on many other points; and, as in all business, and in every arrangement of the day, he was as punctual as time, so he always deemed it essentially necessary to observe the same punctuality with the audience of the theatres, when he commanded an entertainment. There was one instance of his being detained by a special council, when a message came to the managers, in less than half an hour after the usual time of beginning the play, that His Majesty was prevented from coming.

In this he followed the example of his illustrious grandfather, George II., who once, when business detained him a single quarter of an hour, which deferred the beginning of the play, as he approached the front of his box, took out his watch, and, as it were presenting its dial to the house, made a condescending bow.

On this subject we have seen it stated, that be-

ing solicited, in his latter years, to go to one of the theatres on a particular occasion, His Majesty condescended to ask a pious and aged female servant in his establishment what she thought upon the subject, and then, before he could receive an answer, he said, "They tell me that many persons will suffer greatly in their circumstances from my absenting myself: what can I do? I really ought to be thinking about other things in my old age."

His high sense of religion is well known: but there are a thousand little anecdotes of his private observance of its forms and principles which are highly honorable to his memory. During the period of his frequent visits to Kew, a lady, on a visit at this palace, found in the King's chamber an old book of family prayers. In the first, on the Lord's day, the following, among other pious sentiments, occur:—"Guide and defend our most gracious Sovereign Lord, King George; let his days be many, his councils wise and religious, and his reign happy to himself and people," &c. In his own hand-writing, he had effaced the words "King George," and written, "*thy servant*."

We have seen another anecdote, that, looking one day at some plate recently sent over from Hanover, the King observed the motto of the Electorate, which he rendered in English to an attendant, "I trust in my sword." "This," said His Majesty, "I always disliked—my motto is, I trust in the Christian religion, for therein is my trust and con-

fidence;" adding, "Think you it is possible for any one to be happy and comfortable in himself, who has not that trust and confidence? I know there are those who affect to be at ease while living in a state of infidelity; but it is all affectation: it is only the semblance of happiness: the thing itself is impossible." The last sentence the King uttered with so much pious fervor, that an involuntary tear dropped from his eye, and his attendant could not refrain from sympathizing deeply in the tender and devout emotion which it discovered.

When one of the youngest princes was hourly expected to die, the King was sitting on a Sunday, reading a sermon to his family. An attendant came in with the tidings of the child's death. The King exchanged a look with him, signifying he understood his commission, and then proceeded with his reading till it was finished.

His anxiety to bring up his children in religious sentiments was always ardent. This was fully exemplified by his late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, when a vote of thanks was moved on his leaving the chair, at the meeting of the British and Foreign School Society:—"To me there is no merit due; for whatever zeal I may manifest for the prosperity of this institution, I am indebted to the pressing injunctions of my royal father."

The habitual piety of his late Majesty was always the most striking part of his character. Those who have been with him in his morning de-

votions at the private chapel at Windsor will never forget the fervor of his responses during the service. This constant sense of religion doubtless contributed to the invariable firmness and serenity of his mind. Yet, even amidst his devotions, he was not unmindful of due etiquette: and a whimsical story is related of a familiar reprimand which he gave on one occasion to the gallant Sir Sydney Smith, who unwittingly had failed in point of strict court ceremonial.

It was always customary for His Majesty to roll up the printed form of prayer, and with it to beat time to the music of the choir whilst performing; and at other times to point with it to specific parts of the service in the Prayer Book, whenever any of his immediate attendants appeared negligent or inattentive. Two young marquises, of political and military celebrity, are said to have frequently required such notice when they officiated as train-bearers: but, on the morning in question, Sir Sydney, having several times *shifted his birth*, happened to place himself under the organ, and immediately before the royal desk. The King instantly noticed this, and good-humouredly gave the gallant seaman a tap on the head with his paper scroll, which soon recalled the future conqueror of Acre to a sense of his heedless impropriety, and excited considerable risibility amongst the company, whilst Sir Sydney sought shelter from the general laugh behind the two Duchesses of Rutland, who thus

covered the retreat of the man who had never fled before.

Besides attending divine worship, he made it a rule to read Barrow's Sermons every Sunday evening; having previously marked off with a pencil the divisions which he intended to read, so that the entire collection, with a little variation, lasted all the year round.

The King was always a friend to religious liberty. His joiner was a Methodist preacher; and his body coachman was a rank Methodist. The person last alluded to was old Daddy Saunders. It was known to the King that his coachman was a Methodist, but that never caused him to get one unkind word; and His Majesty, when the old man had retired, if he met him, never failed to stop his carriage to say, "Saunders, how do you do?"

We may add an anecdote, which states that the late Mr. Wathen, the celebrated oculist, in one of his interviews with the King, took the liberty to observe, "I have often thought of the words of Solomon: 'When the righteous are in authority, the people rejoice;' and if your Majesty could always appoint servants of that character, the voice of rejoicing would be heard throughout the empire." "Wathen," replied His Majesty, "these are the men I have sought for; but when I have required their services, I have often been disappointed; for I find that men distinguished by habits of piety prefer retirement; and that, generally speaking, the men of

the world must transact the world's business." A remark equally demonstrative of a discriminating mind, and a pious disposition.

Lord Mansfield, on making a report to the King of the conviction of Mr. Malowny, a Catholic priest, who was found guilty, in the county of Surrey, of celebrating mass, was induced, by a sense of reason and humanity, to represent to His Majesty the excessive severity of the penalty which the law imposed for the offence. The King, in a tone of the most heartfelt benignity, immediately answered, " God forbid, my lord, that religious difference in opinion should sanction persecution, or admit of one man within my realms suffering unjustly: issue a pardon immediately for Mr. Malowny, and see that he is set at liberty."

On another occasion, passing through a town near Windsor, a rabble were collected, interrupting the devotions of some itinerant Methodists, when the King, inquiring the cause of the riot, was told that it was only some affair between the townspeople and these enthusiasts: but he immediately replied: " The Methodists are a very quiet kind of people, and will disturb nobody: and if I learn that any persons in my employ disturb them, they shall instantly be dismissed." This soon spread through the place, and tranquillity was almost instantly restored.

In perfect consonance with this, is an anecdote, which states that an under gardener, with whom

the King was accustomed familiarly to converse, was missed one day by His Majesty, who inquired of the head gardener where he was. "Please your Majesty," said the gardener, "he is so very troublesome with his religion, and is always talking about it." "Is he dishonest?" said the King: "does he neglect his work?" "No, your Majesty: he is very honest: I have nothing to say against him for that." "Then send for him again," said the monarch: "why should he be turned off? Call me Defender of the Faith! Defender of the Faith! and turn away a man for his religion?" The King had learnt from this good man, that the place of worship where he attended was supported by voluntary contributions, and was in the habit of giving him a guinea for the quarterly collection.

Since the publication of our first edition, an immense variety of anecdotes have found their way into the world, as may justly be expected, all highly illustrative of what we have already related. From the pulpit, also, much in favor of His Majesty's character has been heard.

One reverend clergyman says, "Let us come to the consideration of that quality in our deceased monarch, without which no genuine Englishman—no Englishman cast in the mould of the good old time of the Reformation—would consent to consider the character of their fellow-countryman as complete, that quality which is, in fact, the basis of all that is good and great in the mind and habits

of man. The deceased King was a man of scriptural, habitual, practical piety. In saying that his religion was scriptural, I mean much by the expression. His principles, views, tastes, interpretations of doctrine, and conceptions of practice, were faithfully, simply, exclusively drawn from holy writ. He regarded with alarm the slightest deviation from a scriptural model. He has been heard to express a wish to hear less of Socrates, and more of Christ, from the pulpit. He was deeply attached to the formularies and homilies of our own church—compositions which it is impossible to estimate too highly—and of the authors of which it may be said, that having, as it were, stepped '*first* into the troubled pool' at the period of the Reformation, they appear beyond all others to have experienced its healing efficacy."

Another asks in what kingdom, "except that of Britain and Ireland, and under whose reign, except that of George the Third, has provision been made equal to what we have the happiness of witnessing, for schools adapted to the lower classes—for Christian missions in Mahometan and Heathen lands—and for the diffusion of the Holy Scriptures? The flame kindled at home is spreading, in every direction, abroad; so that we can hardly name a civilized or uncivilized portion of the earth, accessible to British travellers, and whence the means of religious instruction are not repelled by force, which is not already benefited, and likely to be benefited

still more, by the prudence, generosity, and zeal, of Christians resident or born in this much favored island. Thus the spirit of commerce, adventure, and discovery, so characteristic of our fellow-subjects, and so distinctly encouraged by our late sovereign, has, at last, been made subservient to the noblest purposes; and our vessels, containing treasures, compared with which those of the proudest oriental potentates must be pronounced mere toys, are gone, and going to enrich and bless every shore."

We may add, that when a Bible Society was formed at Windsor, His Majesty had the names of the committee presented to him, which consisted among others of various clergymen; but the name of Mr. R. the Independent minister, being omitted, he keenly inquired the reason, and desired that the name of that good man might instantly be added.

Another venerable priest observes, that his religion was not merely a public religion—occasionally assumed for political or popular purposes—soon to be laid aside, and to be separated from his private habits. It pervaded all his deportment, and formed his character. It was real and personal. It was demonstrated by his devotional spirit—and by his invariable practice of devoting one hour every morning to reading the Scriptures, and to closet-prayer.

It has been added, that His Majesty in his own prayer-book erased the words "His most gracious Majesty," in the place in which he is prayed for under that title, and substituted the words, a sinner.

His regard for, and study of, the Sacred Scriptures was evinced by an anecdote of a gentleman, who, calling upon his late Royal Highness the Duke of Kent, found him with his Bible before him, in which he observed were marked several passages; upon which he said that His Royal Highness must be an attentive reader of the Scriptures: the Duke replied, "What would you say, if you were to see my father's Bible?"

On this subject we may observe, that His Majesty's conversation with Joseph Lancaster is well known; but his noble declaration in favor of instructing the poor cannot be too often repeated—"he hoped the day would come, when every poor child in his kingdom should be taught to read the Bible."

That wish has certainly been fulfilled, in regard to the capability of reading; but we are sorry to confess that *other works* are too much the object of study, instead of the Scriptures.

One other of the current anecdotes we shall introduce.

It is well known that His Majesty was always partial to the employment in his service of sober and religious persons, with whom he would frequently converse on various topics, to elicit information. On one occasion, seeing a young female domestic in tears, he catechised her on the cause; and finding her grief arose from being prohibited by a superior from going to a dissenting meeting

in the neighbourhood, His Majesty called that superior, and reproved her sharply, declaring he would suffer no persecution during his reign.

It is recorded by the Marquis Caraccioli, in his elegant memoir of the life of Ganganelli, that when that pontiff entertained the late Dukes of Gloucester and Cumberland, on their visit to Rome, he received from His Majesty, together with some splendid presents, a very affectionate letter of acknowledgment for the hospitality his brothers had experienced from him. "E il Re d'Inghilterra medesimo gli scrisse nella maniera piú affetuosa per ringraziarlo della magnificenza, colla quale aveoa ricevuto i suoi fratelli, e gli mandó i piú bei regali. Olte di questo accettó ancora la sua mediazione per riconciliarsi col Duca di Cumberland."

His Majesty's munificence to the late Cardinal York is well known, as are also the posthumous honors bestowed upon his remains by his present Majesty, George the Fourth, and which occasioned the gallant Captain Stuart, of Invernahoyle, upon being taunted for holding a commission under His Majesty, while he was a professed Jacobite, to express himself in the following manner: "By heavens, the King himself is a Jacobite, and every son that he has: there is not one of them, if he had lived in my brave father's days, but would have been hanged to a certainty."

His kindness to the Stuarts shewed an equal liberality in political sentiments; and a little anec-

dote, not generally known, and here rather anticipatory, of the late Daniel Isaac Eaton, exhibits a degree of personal forgiveness which the world were not disposed to give him credit for. After Eaton's outlawry, he ventured to return incognito to this country; but not daring to trust to the mercy of the attorney-general or the cabinet, he resolved to apply to majesty itself. Eaton was nearly the same age with the King. His father had held some inferior situation in the Prince of Wales's household, and Daniel had been, in some degree, a temporary playmate of the young heir-presumptive. On this chance he ventured to rely: he took an opportunity of placing himself in the court-yard at Windsor, when His Majesty was going to mount his horse on a hunting party. The King, whose recollection of individuals was most extraordinary, instantly recognized his quondam playfellow, but without being aware that he was the prosecuted outlaw, until, in answer to his inquiries, Eaton informed him of his situation, and of the risk he then run: when the benevolent monarch at once quieted his fears, exclaiming, "Never fear! never fear! I will talk to Pitt!"—and, in fact, in a few days the outlawry was reversed.

The benevolent interest which His Majesty took in the question of the Slave Trade is well known; yet such was the rancour displayed against the royal family at the time alluded to, that the very

party who were the most clamorous about sable liberty, made it a subject of caricature of the royal household, insinuating that the Queen had taken advantage of the popular cry to adopt a system of domestic economy by the disuse of sugar.

Of the King's ready wit many instances might be given: for the present let this suffice:

His Majesty, in one of his rides near Richmond, observed a handsome house, which was either a new erection, or had been considerably altered; and being curious to know who was the owner, he made the necessary inquiries; to which he received for answer, that the mansion was the lately purchased property of his card-maker. "Indeed!" said the King; "then I perceive that this man's cards have all turned up trumps."

On another occasion, having purchased a horse, the dealer put into his hands a large sheet of paper completely written over. "What's this?" said the King. "The pedigree of the horse which your Majesty has just bought," was the answer. "Take it back, take it back," said the King laughing; "it will do just as well for the next horse you sell."

Some years previous to this, Lord Bateman, then master of the stag hounds, having waited upon the King, and begged to know what time His Majesty would chuse to have the stag hounds turned out, "My Lord," replied His Majesty, with a very grave face, "I cannot exactly answer that; but I

can inform you that your lordship was turned out about an hour ago." Lord Bateman was succeeded by the Marquis of Carmarthen.

We have also seen a military joke attributed to him: when at the conclusion of a review of the second regiment of the Life Guards, two privates went through the sword exercise; after which Lord Cathcart inquired if His Majesty would be pleased to see two of the youngest officers display their science in the use of the sword? He assented, and was much gratified with their execution. His Majesty then turned to the general, and inquired who were the *oldest* officers present; and on being answered that Lord Cathcart and Major Barton were, he desired to see them perform, laughing heartily, and telling his lordship that he had brought the exhibition on himself. They accordingly turned out, to the great amusement of those present; and, though the major's system savoured a little of the old school, they acquitted themselves very respectably.

Bishop Watson, on another occasion, says of him:—"At a levee, soon after the experiments on gunpowder had been made, I happened to be standing next to the Duke of Richmond, then master-general of the ordnance; and the duke informed His Majesty that they were indebted to me for a great improvement in its fabrication. On my saying that I ought to be ashamed of myself, inasmuch as it was a scandal in a Christian bishop to instruct

men in the mode of destroying mankind, the King answered, 'Let not that afflict your conscience, for the quicker the conflict the less the slaughter,' or in words to that effect. I mention this to do justice to the King, whose understanding it was the fashion to decry. In all the conversations I had with him, he appeared to me not to be at all deficient in quickness or intelligence."

Indeed, it has been truly said, that nothing could be more courteous, pleasant, and familiar, than the King's address at a levee. He often repeated the same things, and used the same words to successions of state officers; but he pleased all by his apparent personal devotion to each, while addressing him. With those whom he had seen often he entered into long stories, and always had some appropriate joke.

The style and manner of their majesties on court days may be sketched in the following anecdote of Dr. Farmer; who, being appointed in 1782 a prebendary of Canterbury, attended at court to return thanks for his preferment.

Previous to this, Dr. Farmer had been, whilst at Emanuel College, Cambridge, the tutor of the Earl of Westmoreland, and had been accused and reflected on by Mr. Fox for breeding up that nobleman in "Emanuel and tory principles." This fact came to the King's ears, and he did not forget it; for when the Doctor was presented, His Majesty very politely asked him, "whether the University

was flourishing, and what noblemen were resident," —telling him, at the same time, that "he could wish every one of that rank had as good principles instilled into them as the Earl of Westmoreland."

This observation may therefore be considered both polite and apropos; and immediately afterwards, the Queen, in her broken English, accosted him thus:—"Doctour! in what part of the kingdom do you reside?"—"Always at Cambridge, madam."—"Oh! College," replied Her Majesty, and then most condescendingly wished him joy of his preferment.

Even Bishop Watson himself was forced to acknowledge the general condescension of His Majesty upon court occasions, particularly after his publication, in 1793, of a sermon entitled "The Wisdom and Goodness of God in having made both Rich and Poor; with an appendix respecting the then circumstances of Great Britain and France." A strong spirit of insubordination and discontent, as we shall presently have occasion more particularly to notice, was at that time prevalent in Great Britain, when the common people were, in every village, talking about liberty and equality, without understanding the terms. Bishop Watson, with a determination highly honorable to himself, thought it not improper to endeavour to abate this revolutionary ferment, by informing the understandings of those who excited it; and we

trust that he was eminently successful. Speaking on this subject in his memoir, he says—"The King (at his levee) complimented me in the warmest terms, in the hearing of the then Lord Dartmouth, on, he was pleased to say, the conciseness, clearness, and ability, of this little publication; and the then Archbishop of Canterbury afterwards informed me that His Majesty had spoken to him of the publication in the same terms, two months before. On this occasion, when the King was praising what I had written, I said to him, 'I love to come forward in a moment of danger.' His reply was so quick and proper, that I will put it down—'I see you do, and it is a mark of a man of high spirit."

To this statement the bishop very candidly adds—"His Majesty's reception of me at his levee, to which I went once, or, at the most, twice a-year, was always so complimentary, that, notwithstanding the pestilent prevalence of court duplicity, I cannot bring myself to believe that he was my enemy; though he has suffered me to remain, through life, worse provided for than any bishop on the bench."

These facts also shew that the King must have paid great attention to whatever was going on either in the political or literary world; in corroboration of which we may relate another circumstance, mentioned by the writer here quoted, who, having been one of the answerers of Gibbon's infidel assertions

on the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire, and having been replied to by the historian in terms of great courtesy, whilst his replies to others were distinguished by the greatest severity, the bishop thought himself called on to write a sort of complimentary letter to Gibbon, in which he said, that though he had no hope of a future existence except that which is grounded in the truth of Christianity, and wished not to be deprived of that hope, yet he should consider himself an apostate from the mild principles of that religion, if he could be actuated with the least animosity against those who did not think with him upon that, of all others, the most important subject. This letter was first given to the world in 1796, in Gibbon's Miscellaneous Works and Life, "and no sooner published than noticed by the King," says the bishop, "who spoke to me of it at his levee, calling it an odd letter. I did not immediately recollect the purport of it; but on His Majesty's repeating his observation, it occurred to me, and I instantly said to him that I had frequently met with respectable men, who cherished an expectation of a future state, though they rejected Christianity as an imposture; and that I thought my publicly declaring that I was of a contrary opinion might induce Mr. Gibbon, and other such men, to make a deeper investigation into the truth of religion than they had hitherto done. His Majesty expressed himself perfectly satisfied, both with my opinion,

and with my motive for mentioning it to Mr. Gibbon."

Here then are evidences both of the King's condescension and of his strength of intellect, that put to shame all the silly stories which fools or rogues have propagated of his imbecility, judging from the rapidity of his questions; and not recollecting that unless he had been rapid in conception as well as in expression, he never could have got through the complicated bodily and mental labour even of a common levee day.

Here we may add a just observation, that the King taking exercise and amusing himself with those about him, and the King in the cabinet, were two different men. In the discussion of public affairs, he was astonishingly fluent and acute; and his habits of business enabled him to refer with ease to the bearings of every subject. His successive ministers have each borne testimony to the dignity of his manners, as well as to the readiness of his address, when he put on the character of the sovereign. Nothing which was submitted to him was passed over with indifference or haste. Every paper which came under his eye contained marks of his observation; and the notes, which he almost invariably inserted in the margin, were remarkable as well for the strong sense as the pithiness of their character.

In contradistinction to the above courtly anecdote is another, related by Bishop Watson, to have

taken place, in which he says, that "though levee conversations are but silly things in themselves, and the silliest of all possible things when repeated, yet I must mention what happened to myself at the King's levee in November, 1787. I was standing next to a Venetian nobleman: the King was conversing with him about the republic of Venice, and hastily turning to me, said, 'There now, you hear what he says of a republic:' my answer was, 'Sir, I look upon a republic to be one of the worst forms of government.' The King gave me, as he thought, another blow about a republic. I answered that I could not live under a republic. His Majesty still pursued the subject: I thought myself insulted, and firmly said, 'Sir, I look upon the tyranny of any one man to be an intolerable evil, and upon the tyranny of one hundred to be one hundred times as bad.' The King went off. His Majesty, I doubt not, had given credit to the calumnies which the court insects had buzzed into his ears, of my being a favorer of republican principles, because I was known to be a supporter of revolution principles, and had a pleasure in letting me see what he thought of me."

Now all this may have been very spirited and very independent; but we suspect there must have been some little consciousness in the worthy bishop's mind of that which he disclaims, or he would not have thought himself insulted by the King's supposed intentions. However, he goes on to say:—

"This was not quite fair in the King, especially as there is not a word in any of my writings in favor of a republic, and as I had desired Lord Shelburne, before I accepted the bishopric, to assure His Majesty of my supreme veneration for the constitution."

The bishop's concluding observations on the state of parties are worth recording:—"But the reign of George the Third was the triumph of toryism. The whigs had power for a moment, they quarrelled amongst themselves, and thereby lost the King's confidence, lost the people's confidence, and lost their power for ever: or, to speak more philosophically, there was neither whiggism nor toryism left: excess of riches, and excess of taxes, combined with excess of luxury, had introduced universal selfism:"—on which we shall only observe, that if the worthy prelate had pulled off his party-colored spectacles, he would have seen that those who called themselves *whigs* were actually the advocates of *tory* principles, whenever it suited them to aim at power, and were only combated by whig principles on the part of their opponents.

The easy familiarity with which the King treated all his subjects, even upon court occasions, may be further exemplified by the following anecdote of the late Mr. Boulton, the ingenious mechanist and engineer of Soho, near Birmingham. He was a man who mixed with the world, and went occa-

sionally to court, where he was always noticed by His Majesty. Soon after he was connected with Mr. Watt, he appeared at St. James's on a levee day. "Well, Mr. Boulton," said the King, "I am glad to see you. What new project have you got now? I know you are always at something new." "I am," said Mr. Boulton, "manufacturing a new article that kings are very fond of." "Aye, aye, Mr. Boulton, what's that?" "It is power, may it please your Majesty." "Power! Mr. Boulton: we like power, that's true; but what do you mean?" "Why, Sir, I mean the power of steam to move machines." His Majesty was pleased; and laughing, said, "Very good, very good; go on, go on."

In his general domestic concerns, also, he was always communicative and inquisitive. Mr. Gray, a Scotch gentleman employed in his observatory at Richmond, said that the King tried him more by his questions and experiments than had ever happened to him before.

When meeting even with the lowest domestics, he never failed to be equally inquisitive. Walking out early one morning at Windsor, he met a stable-boy, and immediately asked—"Well, boy, what do you do? What do they pay you?" "I help in the stable," said the boy, "but they only give me victuals and clothes." "Be content," said the good old man, "I have no more."

The King's good opinion of Bishop Hurd was

particularly manifested on many occasions, shewing that where once he found his patronage well bestowed, he never deserted his protegee.

When Dr. Thomas, Bishop of Winchester, died in 1781, the King, the very next morning, sent off a special messenger from Windsor with the offer of the mitre for Worcester, in room of Dr. North, who had been promised Winchester, agreeable to an anecdote already related; and as Dr. Thomas had enjoyed the office of clerk of the closet, the King very handsomely offered that also with the bishopric. Two years afterwards he again offered him the York archiepiscopal mitre on the death of Archbishop Cornwallis, with many very gracious expressions, even condescending to press him to accept it; but Hurd humbly begged leave to decline it, as a charge not suited to his temper or talents, and much too heavy for him to sustain, especially at that period; adding, that several much greater men than himself had been contented to die Bishops of Worcester, and that he wished not for any higher preferment.

To this the King unwillingly acceded, and entered into some confidential conversation with him in regard to the appointment. The King also highly valued his portrait, painted by Gainsborough, and since engraved.

Though courting familiarity thus with his subjects, the King was always particularly tenacious in cases of real dignity; as in the instance of

Wilkes, already alluded to, who having had the impertinence or the folly to send an application for clemency in 1768, by a footman in livery, his letter was disregarded, His Majesty not even deigning to speak of such an infraction of the decorum due to royalty from a subject.

When the lady of Sir John Clerk, of Pennycuick, was presented to the King, after her marriage with Sir John, His Majesty said to her, that she was become mistress of a beautiful estate. Her ladyship was surprised, and begged to know how His Majesty knew that; upon which the King began at the source of the river Esk, and mentioned the situation of every seat during its course. He also made very pertinent remarks, describing the condition of particular estates, and suggesting how they might be improved.

Though the King's speeches in parliament were always considered as the speeches of the ministry, yet his subjects out of doors were too apt to attribute the acts of the crown to the monarch himself. Indeed, it may be said, that the fictions of law place the king too often at variance with the subject, as even an action for assault and battery is—the King, versus somebody. In those too, which are more properly suits of the crown, the King, personally, has very little to do, if at all. This was fully felt by the late Lord Mansfield, who, when he was attorney-general, was never in a hurry to bring forward any prosecution at the suit of the

crown: he but too well knew the general obloquy attached to his office, as well as the disgrace that occurred to the crown from ineffectual prosecutions. He told a friend of his, that he thought it of the utmost consequence, in the discharge of his duty, as the principal law officer of the crown, to weigh with great nicety the circumstances of every case that was to be brought into a court of criminal law, at the suit of that fountain no less of mercy than of justice; and unless the scale most decisively preponderated towards the conviction of the offender, he held it even more expedient to drop the prosecution than to proceed in it. Hence it happened that he never once failed in the conviction of any offender, whom, in virtue of his office, as *accusator publicus*, he had brought to his trial.

It is a curious fact, that, during all the uproar about the influence of the crown, "which had increased, was increasing, and ought to be diminished," as resolved in parliament, the King himself was, perhaps, the most decided and most disinterested enemy to that influence. In short, the same love of constitutional freedom, and the same desire to exercise his prerogative for the benefit of his subjects, were manifested by His Majesty throughout his life. "The King," said Lord North, frequently, "would live on bread and water to preserve the constitution of his country: he would sacrifice his life to maintain it inviolate."

This fact is even acknowledged, perhaps not in-

tentionally, by Bishop Watson himself, who says—"As to the King's dislike to me, unless his education had made him more of a whig, it was natural enough. My declared opposition to the increased and increasing influence of the crown had made a great impression on His Majesty's mind; for on the day I did homage, he asked the Duke of Rutland if his friend, the Bishop of Landaff, was not a great enemy to the influence of the crown; saying, at the same time, *that he wished he had not a place of two hundred a-year to give away!*"

Whilst scenes of outrage and violence were exhibiting in France, Britain presented a very different spectacle, with the exception of the machinations of a few busy spirits, who, in hopes of sharing in the spoils of revolution, were anxious to persuade the ignorant and unthinking that it was our best policy to follow French example.

That many well-meaning people were persuaded of this necessity must be acknowledged: they forgot, or were ignorant, that France, when her revolution began, was many centuries behind Britain in civil liberty; they forgot that the best disposed of the French political leaders were only anxious to obtain that liberty which we actually possessed; they forgot that the actual wealth of Britain would be a more powerful stimulus to robbery and assassination than even France could present; and they rushed headlong to the sacrifice of themselves and others.

Indeed, there could not be a more striking contrast than what the two countries then presented. France was struggling through difficulties, both political and financial, to complete a system of liberty, and attempting to renovate her resources, now plunged into almost irremediable confusion. Britain, enjoying all the advantages of established order; conducted by a government equally vigorous and popular; meeting every pecuniary embarrassment, or imposition of taxes, with new and unexampled resources; strengthening her credit, and extending her commerce; whilst she covered the ocean with her navy, and spread the glory of her name over every quarter of the earth, even to those hitherto undiscovered through the lapse of ages.

The character of the sovereign too was not more formed to produce, than that of his administration was to perpetuate, the general tranquillity. Notwithstanding the accusations thrown out against Mr. Pitt, we may venture to assert that his conduct during the progress of the commotions in France, up to this period, might be held up as a model of political honor and rectitude, dictated not only by wisdom, but free also from all paltry thoughts of revenge, for the insidious conduct of France, when Richelieu fomented the causes of discord between our Charles the First and his parliament, or when Vergennes stimulated the Americans to resist-

ance, in violation of the most solemn treaties, and in the disgraceful hope of raising France by our downfall.

If the encouragement which His Majesty gave to nautical researches from the earliest period of his reign, did not succeed in the actual discovery of a new continent; yet it must not be forgotten that under his auspices the indefatigable Cook proved that a southern continent did not exist, and ascertained the important fact of the near approximation of the northern shores of Asia to those of America. To these great discoveries we must join those of Vancouver, which have added the complete certainty that although a passage from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean may exist, yet there is no internal sea or other communication of uninterrupted water carriage whatever south of the Arctic Circle. These circumstances alone are worthy of the patronage and expense of the voyages here alluded to, forming an honorable addition to the sum of British glory.

Views of ambition or avarice had hitherto prevented the Pacific Ocean from being known, the great objects having been either to find the easiest way to the Moluccas or Asiatic spice islands, or to take the beaten path, within the limits of which a Spanish galeon might be found. Mendana and Quiros had, however, by deviating from this track, and holding a westerly one from Callao, found

some islands, which they believed announced the existence of a southern continent.

The Pacific Ocean, within the south tropic, repeatedly traversed in every direction, has been found to swarm with a seemingly endless profusion of habitable spots of land. Islands scattered through the amazing space of near fourscore degrees of longitude, separated at various distances, or grouped in various clusters, have, as it were, started into existence.

The extent of the South Pacific Ocean to the west, the lands which bound it, and the connection between new and old discoveries, were to be ascertained. This, too, has been done, by the accurate survey of the eastern coast of New Holland.

The southern continent, the discovery of which was the object of Captain Cook's second voyage, has sunk never to rise again. We have now ocular demonstration, that the captain, in his persevering researches, sailed over many an extensive continent, supposed to have been seen by former navigators: besides exploring the land in the South Indian Ocean, of which Kerguelen had been able to obtain but a very imperfect knowledge; and discovering the noble group, now called Sandwich Islands, in the northern part of the Pacific Ocean, of which not the faintest trace can be met with, except, perhaps, in some old Spanish charts;

beside these preliminary discoveries, in one summer our English navigator discovered a much larger proportion of the north-west coast of America than the Spaniards, though settled in the neighbourhood, had, in all their attempts, for above two hundred years, been able to do. By fixing the relative situation of Asia and America, and discovering the narrow bounds of the strait that divides them, he has thrown a blaze of light upon this important part of the geography of the globe, and solved the puzzling problem about the peopling of America, by tribes destitute of the necessary means to attempt long navigations.

The learned Dr. Douglas judiciously asks, considering these important facts, may we not reasonably indulge the pleasing hope that fresh branches of commerce may, even in our time, be attempted, and successfully carried on? Our hardy adventurers in the whale-fishery have already found their way, within these few years, into the South Atlantic: and who knows what fresh sources of commerce may still be opened, if the prospect of gain can be added, to keep alive the spirit of enterprize?

There is nothing so difficult, perhaps, for a monarch as the choice of friends and ministers at his accession. In this choice His Majesty was, in many instances, happy; though the violent clash and concussion of parties, which soon after succeeded, tended to excite strong prejudices amongst the public in general, against several very able

and efficient individuals. Amongst these was the late Lord Liverpool, then Mr. Jenkinson, about nine years older than the youthful monarch; whose zeal, attachment, and talents, were already well known to His Majesty, and placed their possessor in the most conspicuous situation midst the competitors for royal favor.

This gentleman first started into public notice as the author of verses on the demise of Frederick Prince of Wales; and it is said that these lines made a very serious impression upon the pious mind of the juvenile heir-apparent, to whom he was introduced by the then Earl of Harcourt, and to whom he was known not only by his talents, but also from his family connexions.

This recommendation was aided by the King's own feelings and discrimination, not only introducing Mr. Jenkinson to high official situations, but also to a considerable share of the public attention, as a follower of Lord Bute, upon whose retirement from office His Majesty refused to part with Mr. Jenkinson, and accordingly took care that he should be placed in a situation, which, whilst it preserved the connexion, would render him the object of his more immediate protection.

With this view, Mr. Jenkinson was appointed auditor of accounts to the Princess Dowager; in which situation he could not fail to obtain her royal highness's confidence; indeed, he served her so gratuitously, that at her demise he refused to accept of

any remuneration whatever for his services. This disinterested conduct attached the King more strongly to him; nor did His Majesty even feel offended with the title given to him by his opponents—that of leader of the King's friends—an honorable sobriquet which he was proud to preserve through life.

Unhappy indeed would be the monarch who should have no friends, except those actually in place and power, men whose stay in office depends generally more upon the will of the people than of the prince, in a country so free as this; for, though the House of Commons has certainly no right to dictate to the monarch who shall be his confidential advisers, yet the History of England sufficiently manifests that on many occasions the monarch must either part with his cabinet or his parliament, by changing the one or dissolving the other.

In his regard for literature, the King did not disdain to associate freely with some of its professors; particularly the learned and ingenious Jacob Bryant, whose character was so very high, that His Majesty frequently condescended to visit the humble retreat of that venerable sage at Cypenham, near Windsor. Indeed, the King always expressed a high respect for him, believing him to be, as has been described, uniformly a faithful and true servant of God, by whose mercy he was blessed with fulness of days, comforts, and honors.

Bryant's attainments were peculiar to himself, which rendered him more interesting to His Majesty: and in point of classical education, of which the King was an excellent judge, he was perhaps excelled by few in Europe. Indeed, it is stated by Mr. Nicholls, that Bryant preserved his eminent superiority of talents to the last days of his long life, which was devoted to literature; and his studies were for the most part directed to the detection of error, and the investigation of truth. His conversation was full of spirit, pleasing, and instructive: his acquaintance and friends were choice, yet numerous; as his society was courted and enjoyed by all distinguished literary personages in his vicinity.

It is not surprising therefore that the King should have regarded such a man; and his approval of him is a proof of the soundness of his taste: indeed, they were upon such terms of familiar intimacy, that Mr. Bryant in his lifetime presented many of his valuable books to the King, who accepted them most graciously.

Bryant always attended early prayers in the Chapel at Windsor Castle; and then set off upon his long rounds, being, like his royal patron, a great walker.

The worthy and ingenious Richard Owen Cambridge frequently had the honor of being admitted to the conversation of His Majesty, who was much pleased with his lively and sagacious remarks on

most subjects. Towards the close of this gentleman's life, the King met him one day riding gently down a declivity, on which he observed, with his wonted good nature, "Mr. Cambridge, you don't ride quite so fast as you used to do." "No, please your Majesty," replied he jocosely, "for now I'm going down the hill."

Nor were His Majesty's attentions to literary men confined to his own personal gratifications: for from a very early period of his life he took great pleasure in encouraging literature, and in patronising men of talents, whose principles and character rendered them worthy of his favor.

Dr. Johnson, we have seen, was distinguished by especial marks of royal consideration. Thomas Sheridan, father to the late orator, received a pension from His Majesty, without any previous solicitation. Dr. Beattie received a similar favor in a similar way. Dr. Robertson had a pension of £200. per annum. Dr. Henry, a minister in Edinburgh, had £100. per annum for his History of England. When Whitehead, the poet laureat, died, that office was at once offered by His Majesty to the learned and worthy Dr. Warton. Dr. Tucker also, the Dean of Gloucester, received some substantial proofs of his sovereign's favor, he having, when His Majesty was young, drawn up for his use a course of elementary instruction on trade and commerce, the principles of which the prince was anxious to study. To all which instances many others might

be added, including Cowper, Miss Hamilton, &c. were it necessary to prove a fact already well known.*

* In his attentions to scholars, the good monarch did not even neglect the scholars at Eton, whose juvenile pranks afforded him much innocent amusement, especially at the *Montem*; of which ceremony we may insert a curious account from a valuable periodical work.

"It consists of a procession to a small tumulus on the southern side of the Bath road, which has given the name of Salt Hill to the spot, now better known by the splendid inns that are established there. The chief object of this celebration, however, is to collect money for salt, according to the language of the day, from all persons who assemble to see the show; nor does it fail to be exacted from travellers on the road, and even at the private residences within a certain, but no inconsiderable, range of the spot. The scholars appointed to collect the money are called salt-bearers: they are arrayed in fancy dresses, and are attended by others called scouts, of a similar but less showy appearance. Tickets are given to such persons as have paid their contributions, to secure them from any further demand. This ceremony is always very numerously attended by Etonians, and has frequently been honored by the presence of His Majesty and the different branches of the royal family. The sum collected on the occasion has sometimes exceeded £800. and is given to the senior scholar, who is called captain of the school. This procession appears to be coeval with the foundation; and it is the opinion of Mr. Lysons, who is the last writer on this subject, and whose industry in collecting, as well as judgment in deciding on, matters of this character, are beyond all challenge, that it was a ceremonial of the Bairn, or Boy Bishop. He states, from information which he had received, that it originally took place on the sixth of December, the festival of St. Nicholas, the patron of children; being the day on which it was customary at Salisbury, and in other places where the ceremony was observed, to elect the Boy Bishop from

The King in his literary pursuits was always attentive to works on divinity, and extremely well

among the children belonging to the cathedral; which mock dignity lasted till Innocent's Day; and during the intermediate time the boy performed various episcopal functions; and if it happened that he died before the allotted period of this extraordinary mummery had expired, he was buried with all the ceremonials which were used at the funeral of a bishop. In the voluminous collections relating to antiquities, bequeathed by Mr. Cole, who was himself of Eton and King's College, to the British Museum, is a note which mentions that the ceremony of the Bairn, or the Boy Bishop, was to be observed by charter; and that Jeffery Blythe, Bishop of Lichfield, who died in 1530, bequeathed several ornaments to those colleges, for the dress of the Bairn Bishop. But on what authority this industrious antiquary gives the information, which, if correct, would put an end to all doubts on the subject, does not appear.

"Till the time of Dr. Barnard, the procession of the Montem was every two years, and on the first or second Tuesday in February. It consisted of something of a military array. The boys in the *Remove*, fourth, and inferior forms, marched in a long file of two and two, with white poles in their hands; while the sixth and fifth form boys walked on their flanks as officers, and habited in all the variety of dress which Monmouth-street could furnish, each of them having a boy of the inferior forms, smartly dressed, attending upon him as a footman. The second boy in the school led the procession in a military dress, with a truncheon in his hand, and bore for the day the title of marshal; then followed the captain, supported by his chaplain, the head scholar of the fifth form, dressed in a suit of black, with a large bushy wig, and a broad beaver, decorated with a twisted silk hatband and a rose, the fashionable distinction of the dignified clergy of that day. It was his office to read certain Latin prayers on the mount at Salt Hill. The third boy of the school brought up the rear as

read in the productions of Bishop Andrews, Jeremy Taylor, and other great fathers of our Protestant church. Conversing with a young divine one day, His Majesty asked him if he was acquainted with the writings of the authors above specified, when the young man replied that he had principally employed himself in reading the divines of more

lieutenant. One of the higher classes, whose qualification was his activity, was chosen ensign, and carried the colours, which were emblazoned with the college arms, and the motto *Pro More et Monte.* This flag, before the procession left the college, he flourished in the school-yard with great dexterity, as displayed sometimes at Astley's and places of similar exhibitions. The same ceremony was repeated after prayers on the mount. The whole regiment dined in the inns at Salt Hill, and then returned to the college; and its dismission in the school-yard was announced by the universal drawing of all the swords. Those who bore the title of commissioned officers were exclusively on the foundation, and carried spontoons: the rest were considered as serjeants and corporals; and a most curious assemblage of figures it exhibited. The two principal salt-bearers consisted of an oppidan and a colleger: the former was generally some nobleman, whose figure and personal connexions might advance the interest of the collection. They were dressed like running footmen, and carried each of them a silk bag to receive the contributions, in which was a small quantity of salt. During Doctor Barnard's mastership, the ceremony was made triennial: the time changed from February to Whit-Tuesday, and several of its absurdities retrenched. An ancient and savage custom of hunting a ram by the foundation scholars, on Saturday in the election week, was abolished in the early part of the last century. The curious twisted clubs, with which these collegiate hunters were armed on the occasion, are still to be seen in the antiquarian collection."

modern times: to which the King, with great energy, observed—"Sir, there were giants in those days!"

A few years before His Majesty was afflicted with blindness, he held a conversation with a gentleman of extensive literary connexions, and the subject on which the discourse turned was the History of England. The King observed that he had long wished to see such a work properly executed, and that he had mentioned it to several noblemen and others, with a view of getting some persons of eminent talent to engage in the undertaking. It had been proposed to Dr. Robertson, and likewise to Lord Lyttleton; but neither of those writers appeared willing to embark in a concern of that magnitude, though all the assistance of government was freely offered, and would, beyond all doubt, have been amply granted, for the purpose of enabling the historian to have completed his design in a manner equally creditable to himself, and serviceable to the country. At this time His Majesty stated the outline of his plan, which was to have all the materials, printed and manuscript, collected, and the extracts made with the greatest care, by persons employed at the public charge; and that from these collections, aided by all the help of our public libraries, with all the lights afforded by foreign writers, especially those in the northern parts of Europe, whose productions have been too heedlessly passed over, the historian should

draw up his connected narrative, subject to the revision of different persons appointed to compare his performance with the authorities which he professed to have followed. Such was the project which His Majesty suggested for the filling up a chasm in English literature; but as the conversation was rather long, and embraced many topics connected with this scheme, the sketch here given must be considered as necessarily defective, and affording but a very limited and imperfect view of the monarch's ideas on this great national desideratum.

Whilst patronising literature at home, the King was not inattentive to that of our eastern empire, a proof of which was given in a letter from Lord Grenville to Mr. Dundas, acknowledging His Majesty's acceptance of a copy of the Asiatic Researches, and his "satisfaction in the progress of the sciences in the British establishments in India, and his approbation of the important undertaking," connected with the Asiatic Society in Bengal.

The dedications to the King, as the patron of literature, have been very numerous; though, on some occasions, where they would have been very appropriate, they have been omitted, out of perhaps too strict a compliance with courtly etiquette.

An instance of this occurred about the time of his recovery in 1789, when Dr. Horsley, Bishop of St. David's, preached a sermon before the Royal Humane Society, of which the King was patron, and the bishop a vice-president, on the principle

of vitality in man, as described in the Holy Scriptures; and the difference between true and apparent death. On the publication of the sermon, which the judicious Nicholls calls a most admirable, philosophical, and appropriate discourse, and which, being printed by desire, run through several editions, has been admired by the learned world, and resorted to by the able divines that have since preached for that institution—a doubt arose in the mind of the bishop, his letter on which subject, to Mr. Nicholls, is so much a literary and courtly curiosity as to merit extraction.

" I very much doubt the propriety of mentioning the King in an inscription, without express leave, though it may seem to be a compliment. I rather suspect that the etiquette of the court is against it. On the other hand, it may seem strange to inscribe to a society of which he is patron, without taking notice of him. Perhaps the readiest way of getting over the difficulty will be not to inscribe at all, which, indeed, I should not have thought of, but in the apprehension that if it has been done by former preachers (of which I am ignorant) my omission of it might receive a wrong construction. If the sermons have not been inscribed before, it will not be necessary that I should introduce a new practice; if the practice is established, I must, however, inquire before we venture to use the King's name."

The inscription, we believe, was omitted; but the

society took a more special way of marking their loyal affection to their patron, by an appropriate address to His Majesty, which was dictated by the venerable prelate.

The first book ever dedicated to the King was in the year 1740, when only two years old, by Dr. John Free; who, by permission, or rather by desire, of the Prince of Wales, prepared a work, intended for the instruction of the young prince, called "History of the English Tongue, with the Author's intended Dedication to His Royal Highness Prince George."

The same learned gentleman, twenty-four years afterwards, dedicated another work to His Majesty, the "Analysis of Man, or the difference between the Reasonable and Living Soul," which was preached as a sermon before the University of Oxford.

Amongst the various literary works dedicated to the King, we may enumerate Gough's edition of Camden's Britannica, which runs in the following terms: "To the Patron of Arts and Sciences, the Father of his People, George III. who has condescended to encourage researches into antiquity, this work, the earliest account of his kingdom, is dedicated by his most dutiful subject, RICHARD GOUGH."

To these we may add, "Discourses on various Subjects," intended to support the cause of religion and virtue, dedicated to the King as the great patron of both, by Dr. Balguy, Archdeacon of Win-

chester, who, when named by His Majesty to a bishopric, exclaimed *nolo episcopari* most sincerely, and was graciously permitted to decline the mitre.

Two of the finest dedications are, that prefixed to Bishop Horsley's edition of Newton's works, to His Majesty in Latin, and that of Adams' on the Globes, to the King, in English. This last was written by Dr. Johnson, who received for it the present of a very handsome weather-glass. The learned bishop above-mentioned spoke in very high terms of His Majesty's taste and judgment, particularly on the subject of mathematics, mechanics, and natural philosophy. Several years after the first presentation of Dr. Horsley to the King, he had a closet audience, at which His Majesty reminded him of his edition of Newton, and at the same time gently reproved him for not having published the life of that illustrious philosopher; of whom Johnson, who urged the doctor to write it in English, said, that " if he had lived in ancient Greece, he would have been worshipped as a divinity."

The principle of a literary order, not of chivalry, indeed, but of merit, has been partly acted upon already, by the appropriation of twelve crosses of the Bath for civil distinction ; the first instance of which took place with regard to the late venerable president of the Royal Society, the first to enjoy, and most deservedly, that peculiar distinction so appropriate to a man who has rendered extraordinary services

both to virtue and science, and who, being a man of ample fortune, and of personal disinterestedness, could not be rewarded in any other manner.

His Majesty, always most undeniably a zealous patron of all that is in science sublime and useful, an accurate judge of merit, and candid and discriminating in that judgment, could not feel otherwise than anxious to honor Sir Joseph Banks with every flattering personal attention in his power; accordingly he added a baronetage to the red ribband; and, in imitation of the German princes, who are accustomed to bestow on men of science and literature the title of counsellor, he elevated him also to the rank of right honorable, by an admission to the privy council of the united empire; a distinction, indeed, not merely honorary, but officially proper, as the information, and also the influence, of such a man must always be highly useful to that deliberative and actively executive body.

Amongst the literary presents made by the King to the British Museum, the history of one deserves a place here. It was a most valuable collection of thirty thousand tracts, bound in two thousand volumes, of which about one hundred political, chiefly on the side of Charles the First, though printed, were never published. The whole, says Mr. Nicholls, was intended for the use of that monarch, carried about England as the parliament army marched, kept in the collector's warehouses, disguised as tables covered with canvas, and lodged

last at Oxford, under the care of Dr. Barlow, until he was made Bishop of Lincoln.

They were then offered to the library at Oxford, but refused; and at length bought for Charles the Second by his stationer, Samuel Mearne, whose widow was afterwards obliged to dispose of them, if she could find a purchaser, for which she had permission from that monarch in 1684; but it is believed that they still remained without a buyer, and continued unsold, until His Majesty bought them from Mearne's representatives, having passed as a kind of heir-loom from hand to hand, amongst whom was a Mr. Henry Sisson, a druggist on Ludgate Hill, in 1745.

It is stated that the original collector refused £4000. for them; but the King bought them a much cheaper bargain. Their value may also be estimated by the fact of Charles I. having once paid ten pounds to read one of them at the owner's house in St. Paul's Church Yard.

Amongst other proofs of His Majesty's private munificence was his present of a very fine organ to the cathedral of Salisbury; and the manner in which it was bestowed was even more valuable than the gift itself. The King was one day inquiring of Bishop Barrington (whom he knew to be the projector and patron of the improvements then going on in that august pile), what these improvements were to be, and by what means the expense was to be defrayed. The bishop stated the several alter-

ations, and that a new organ was much wanted, though he feared it would greatly exceed the means, which depended solely on the voluntary contributions of the gentlemen in the counties of Berks and Wilts, which form the diocese. The King immediately replied, "I desire that you will accept of a new organ for your cathedral, being my contribution as a Berkshire gentleman."

His patronage of Bacon, the sculptor, arose from the introduction of the Archbishop of York, who, being then about to place a bust of His Majesty in the hall of Christ Church College, Oxford, was anxious to have it executed by Mr. Bacon, then in high repute amongst all the virtuosi of the kingdom, and indeed of established reputation, in consequence of the exhibition of his statue of Mars, soon after his receiving the first gold medal for sculpture from the Royal Academy.

On being presented to the King, His Majesty instantly consented to sit; when the execution of that work, added to the fame he had already acquired, ensured to him the royal patronage, and an order from the King to prepare another bust, to be presented to the University of Gottingen.*

* When this artist was modelling the bust of His Majesty, the King asked him if he had ever been out of the kingdom: on being answered in the negative, the King said, "I am glad of it; you will be the greater honor to it." His first monument was that of Mrs. Withers, in St. Mary's Church, Worcester; his first work in sculpture, the King; and the first figure in marble, at the Duke of Richmond's, at Goodwood. When

Though His Majesty encouraged painting, yet his patronage of it was not indiscriminate. Indeed, he was sometimes accused of ill-judged economy on that subject; an anecdote respecting which is told of Opie, who having carried one of his early metropolitan efforts to Buckingham House by royal desire, the King bought it, presenting the almost self-taught artist with ten guineas, saying, he could not afford to give more for it. When Opie informed his friend, Peter Pindar, of the affair, the satirist exclaimed that it was too little, and that he should not have parted with his piece under twenty; on which the Cornish lad said he would run back to the palace, and mend his bargain; but this familiar visit his friend Peter advised him to decline.

Zoffany was once engaged as a portrait painter, of whom the following anecdote has been related.

When he commenced his first picture of the royal family, there were ten children. He made his sketch accordingly, and attending two or three times, went on with finishing the figures. Various

he exhibited his statue of "The Thames," it was noticed by a certain great personage, who, after having expressed her admiration of it as a work of art, inquired why he could not avoid making it so frightful a figure. He replied, that art could not always effect that which was within the reach of nature—the union of beauty and majesty. When he modelled his head of Jupiter Tonans, it was mistaken by connoisseurs for a fine antique; and they inquired from what temple abroad it had been brought.

circumstances prevented him from proceeding. His Majesty was engaged in business of more consequence; Her Majesty was engaged; some of the princes were unwell. The completion of the picture was consequently delayed, when a messenger came to inform the artist that another prince was born, and must be introduced into the picture. This was not easy, but it was done with some difficulty. All this took up much time, when a second messenger arrived to announce the birth of a princess, and to acquaint him that the illustrious stranger must have a place on the canvass. This was impossible without a new arrangement: one-half of the figures were therefore obliterated, in order that the grouping might be closer to make room. To do this was the business of some months; and before it was finished, a letter came from one of the maids of honor, informing the painter that there was another addition to the family, for whom a place must be found. "This," cried the artist, "is too much: if they cannot sit with more regularity, I cannot paint with more expedition, and must give it up."

It has been well known that the King was always passionately fond of agricultural pursuits, a friend to improvements in this first of arts, and himself a practical farmer, respecting which so many false calumnies were circulated by Peter Pindar in his disloyal productions. But it has not been so generally known that His Majesty actually

condescended to become a public writer on that subject, by addressing several letters to Arthur Young, for his Annals of Agriculture, under the signature of RALPH ROBINSON, *Windsor*.

These letters were seven in number, all of considerable length, and displaying a most intimate knowledge of the subject; all written with great dignity, yet perspicuity, of style, and highly honorable both to the monarch and to the man.

The first letter commenced with the judicious observation that the publication of that work must in time be crowned with success in the improvement of agriculture, to which His Majesty modestly added, "Therefore it seems incumbent on all, who think they have materials on this interesting subject worthy of the inspection of the public, to transmit them to you, who, if you view them in that light, will give them a place in that estimable work."

In the progress of this first letter, the King declared that his object was to explain the beneficial system of husbandry adopted by a Mr. Ducket, on a farm at Petersham, which he had long requested: the modesty of that gentleman preventing him from laying it before the public, "I will attempt," said he, "to describe his mode of cultivation, rather than it shall remain longer unnoticed in your Annals."

Arthur Young inserted this letter in his ensuing number, expressing at the same time a wish that *Mr. Robinson* would enter more minutely into the

subject; and in the ensuing March, 1787, the first letter being written in January of that year, the King again addressed him, saying, "The early attention you have given to my attempt of laying before the public, through your useful channel, Mr. Ducket's system of agriculture, fully entitles you to expect from me a compliance in the request you have intimated." It is needless, however, to examine these letters further here, but we strongly recommend their perusal to every lover of his King and of his country.

On this subject it must never be forgotten that agriculture is the basis of national prosperity: but it would exceed our limits, should we calculate the numerous benefits bestowed on agriculture since 1760; the number of statutes passed for converting large wastes into arable land, for draining marshes, for forming roads, constructing bridges, canals, ports, with other improvements, all contributing to facilitate the intercourse of the kingdom, and consequently favoring the transit of agricultural productions.

Windsor Great Park was not taken into active cultivation until 1791, yet the Little Park had been stocked with sheep and cattle as early as 1785, though without dispossessing the deer and hares of their ancient domains. The King was so much of a farmer as to sell his Merino sheep; but his reason for it was judicious. He observed that it was better to sell than give them away; because then

they were sure to go to those who wished for, and would take care of them.

His sales of general produce were equally judicious: it is true, indeed, that a well-known Pindaric wit, in the present age, has been accustomed to allow his Pegasus, whilst prancing over the common, to fling dirt at the agricultural amusements of this revered personage: such pursuits, however, were the amusement and recreation of a monarch, who has emphatically been called the Great. We allude to Henry the Fourth of France, who not only personally patronized agriculturists, but was also a practical farmer himself, and took pride in making the Spanish ambassador, a man of high rank, and supercilious manners, taste some wine made in his own vineyard; saying courteously to him, "I assure you I have not only a vineyard, but also some fields and some cows under my own direction; and I have learned so much of farming, that I am convinced I could make a comfortable livelihood by it."

The King's attention was always as much turned to botany as to agriculture, bestowing great pains upon the botanic garden at Kew, which about this time exhibited the finest collection of plants, perhaps, in Europe. Persons selected for that purpose, by the late ingenious gardener, Aiton, were employed from time to time to collect new and rare plants from Africa, and other distant countries; and the collection was considerably increased by

the communications of Sir Joseph Banks, President of the Royal Society, and such other zealous promoters of the science as had frequent opportunities of procuring new seeds and plants from remote parts of the world; so that this collection was so much increased in 1788, as to render it necessary to erect a new house, one hundred and ten feet in length, for the reception of African plants alone; a house since that for New Holland plants; another with a span-roof for New Holland and Cape plants; besides some smaller houses for plants of various descriptions, in ground purchased by His Majesty, and added to the botanic garden. By these means the royal gardens are enriched with collections of vegetables procured at great expense from the remotest parts of the globe; while those who study the nature and properties of animals have enjoyed repeated accessions to the means of furnishing their museums with rarities.

Whilst the King was pursuing his improvements at Richmond and Windsor, he displayed a degree of self-control, trifling in itself, but honorable to him, both as a monarch and a man. Having observed to Colonel Price that he had an intention of ordering a particular tree to be taken down, he in a rapid manner asked the colonel's opinion, as if he expected an entire acquiescence in his idea. The colonel, however, respectfully ventured to say that he was of a different opinion.—"Aye!" rejoined His Majesty, somewhat hastily,—"that's your way: you

continually contradict me."—"If your Majesty," replied Colonel Price, "will not condescend to listen to the honest sentiments of your faithful servants, you never can hear the truth." After a short pause, the King very kindly laid his hand upon the colonel's shoulder, adding, "You are right, Price; the tree shall stand."

Of His Majesty's walks and rides about Windsor whilst these improvements were going on, various anecdotes have been related.

On one occasion, a gentleman riding rather fast in that vicinity, his horse stumbled, and threw him to the ground, where he lay for some time completely stunned; but on recovering found himself assisted by a good-looking, elderly, country-like gentleman, wearing a brown bob wig. This good Samaritan insisted that he should not remount his horse, and walked by his side until they reached the nearest inn, to which they no sooner came than all hats flew off, and the greatest respect was paid to the venerable stranger, whom the astonished gentleman now first knew to be his sovereign.

On another occasion whilst riding out, attended only by two servants, the King rode up to a crowd of people, and perceived that one of the horses of a team had dropped down dead. The owner seemed much affected, and, wringing his hands, declared that it was the greatest misfortune that had ever happened to him, as he could not afford to buy another,

in consequence of repeated losses. The King instantly called one of his servants, who rode an excellent horse, and asked the inconscious waggoner if that would answer his purpose. "Ah! master," said the rustic, "my pocket will not reach such a beast as that;" when the king, with the warmest benignity, replied, "Come! come! my honest fellow, be of good heart! Take him! take him! and when I demand a price for him, then you shall pay me!"

The Great Park at Windsor, as before noted, now fell into His Majesty's possession, to the extent of about four thousand acres, which he considered as a rough jewel to be polished up for general usefulness, as an experimental farm. In its wild state, the whole, as a natural object, was grand and beautiful, and quite a forest in appearance; but the parts were crowded and indistinct. The soil too was various; some parts clay and loam; and some sharp gravel or poor sand; the former of which was principally covered with rushes and mole-hills, and the latter with fern and moss.

To reduce this to agricultural purposes was now the King's great desire; and accordingly about one thousand acres of the lightest part were immediately separated from the rest, at one extremity, and formed into what has been since called the Norfolk farm; whilst four hundred acres more, at the other extremity, of a good loamy soil, were likewise sepa-

rated, and called the Flemish farm: each being so named from the style of husbandry intended to be used on it.

But these arrangements were so judiciously adopted, that though the remaining two thousand four hundred acres remained in plantations and parks, yet from the improvements also made upon them, they were soon capable of carrying more stock than even the whole four thousand acres had done before: and to effect this not a tree was unnecessarily sacrificed.

Various additional traits of the royal character now press themselves upon our notice.

It has already been hinted that the King was not only a competent judge of the science of architecture, but he was so far a practical man as to have amused his leisure hours with the composition of architectural designs; and the embellishments of various kinds executed under his patronage at Windsor will long remain monuments of his munificence.

In regard to his patronage of the painters, it has been well observed, that the influence of the arts is by no means confined to the superiority of our pictorial works (now admitted throughout Europe); it has pervaded also an infinite variety of ramifications, exemplified in thousands of articles which bear the name of manufactures.

But it is time to close this section; we shall therefore merely add two anecdotes of his benevolence,

which are well authenticated. On one occasion, when a sheriff of London some years since announced a fund for the relief of the wives and children of prisoners, His Majesty called him aside at the levee, and after stating that he felt himself obliged by the sheriff's attention to his duty, in instituting such a fund, presented him with a fifty pound bank-note, desiring that it might be appropriated to the purposes of the fund, but requesting that his name, as that of the donor, might not be allowed to transpire.

We have also seen it stated, that a respectable mechanic, who had the honor and happiness to be personally known to His Majesty, was, through affliction in his family, brought into great pecuniary straits. He was advised to present a petition to the King, stating his circumstances. He did so, and His Majesty was pleased to appoint a certain hour on the next morning, when he was ordered to be in waiting. He went accordingly to the gate of the Queen's Lodge, but through diffidence did not ring for admittance. He lingered until the appointed time was past by a few minutes, when the King came out, with some attendants. He instantly observed the petitioner, and said rather sharply, "I desired you to be here precisely at such a hour: it is now five minutes past the time: you know that I am punctual." His Majesty condescendingly turned back, saying, "Follow me." He proceeded through several rooms, into his private closet; and

having shut the door, went to his desk, and took out a purse, and gave it to the applicant, and said, "Here is money to pay your debts, and a trifle for yourself." The humble petitioner, overwhelmed with the King's goodness, dropped on his knees, and made a stammering effort to thank and bless his prince, but a flood of tears prevented him. His Majesty instantly put forth his hand, and with considerable emotion, exclaimed, "Get up, get up; thank God that I have it in my power to help an honest man."

SECTION VI.

1791—1800.

French Revolution.—Nuptials of the Duke of York.—Courtly Anecdotes.—Naval Visit to Spithead.—Nuptials of George the Fourth.—Political Anecdotes.—Volunteer Reviews, &c.

It seems to have been the King's fate, by an extraordinary coincidence, to suffer from the derangement of others, as well as from his own personal misfortune. Another instance of this, in addition to some already mentioned, took place on the seventeenth of August, as he was passing in his carriage through the park to St. James's, when the unhappy Mr. Sutherland, then genteely dressed in black, and standing in the Green Park, close to the rails, just as the carriage came up opposite to where he stood, was observed to pull a paper hastily from his pocket, addressed to the King, which he stuck on the rails, then threw off his hat, and, discharging a pistol into his own bosom, instantly fell.

Though surrounded with people assembled to see His Majesty pass, so suddenly was this rash act perpetrated, that no one suspected his purpose until he had accomplished it. The King was much

affected with the sight, and ordered every care to be taken of the unhappy gentleman, but he expired instantly. In his hand was a letter, addressed to "the coroner who shall take an inquest on James Sutherland;" and in it was inclosed a copy of the letter stuck on the rails, which contained a long detail of hardships which he conceived he had suffered, and with which His Majesty could have no personal concern; and, had he known them, must have referred to the proper authorities.

The royal party again left Windsor for Weymouth at five o'clock in the morning of the third of September, and arrived at a few minutes before six in the evening, travelling with such velocity that the wheels of the princesses' carriage actually took fire; and they judged it prudent, although it was instantly extinguished, to perform the remainder of the journey in the coach intended for the equerries.

Whilst thus pursuing health, and relaxation from business, the King was not unmindful of the welfare of his subjects, even in more minute arrangements than those of actual politics; and, accordingly, a short time before leaving Windsor, he despatched a ram from his own flock of Merinos, now first imported, for the improvement of British wool in Scotland. This animal was landed at Leith late in September, and was selected with such precision by the King himself, that the best judges declared that it not only did great credit to the royal flock, but was in reality the best specimen of

the true Spanish breed that the Scottish Society had hitherto been able to obtain, uniting all the advantages of shape and fleece.

It was sent to the parks belonging to the society, four miles from Edinburgh, where the shepherd had orders to exhibit the flock every Saturday to all persons bringing proper introductions.

Whilst at Weymouth the King gave his assent in council to the marriage treaty of the Duke of York; and the royal party returned to Windsor at the close of October.

At seven o'clock, on the twenty-third of November, the marriage ceremony of the Duke and Duchess of York took place at the Queen's Palace. The august pair had arrived in town a few days previous from Berlin, by the way of France; and it is a curious fact, that in passing through that madly inflamed country, they were rudely stopped by a frantic mob, who assembled round the royal carriage, and were, with extreme difficulty, prevented from defacing the arms upon the pannels, in consequence of the new republican hostility to any thing connected with ancient feudal distinctions.

On the evening of the marriage, the ceremony was performed, in the presence of the whole royal family, by the Archbishop of Canterbury, assisted by the Bishop of London, the King standing at one end of the altar, and the Queen at the other; and as soon as the service was performed, the Duchess went to His Majesty, and attempted to kneel,

HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS

FREDERICK DUKE OF YORK,

BORN AUGUST 16, 1763.

which the King with some difficulty prevented, and, raising her in his arms, he affectionately embraced her.

Though the King lived in the most friendly style with his family, yet on particular occasions an extreme etiquette was observed; an instance of which occurred soon after the arrival of the Duchess of York, when their majesties and the princesses paid a visit to their new relative at York House.

After reciprocal salutations in the hall, their majesties were led to the lower apartment, fronting the park, where tea, coffee, and other refreshments, were prepared. The tea ceremonial was, that it was introduced by the servants in waiting, received by gentlemen of the duke's establishment, and handed by the Prince of Wales to the King; after which a cup was received by the Duke of York, handed by him to the Duchess, and presented by her to Her Majesty. Notwithstanding this ceremonious formality, an agreeable family evening was spent, the royal visitors not retiring until a late hour.

It may not be uninteresting to sketch the etiquette of a public drawing-room also, when, notwithstanding the ceremony, their majesties were always condescending, almost to familiarity.

At the commencement the company began to occupy the anti-chambers leading to the drawing-room, ranging themselves on each side, but leaving a line for the royal party to pass through. On

crowded occasions there have been six or seven ranks on each side. The King always passed first, noticing the persons of fashion on each side, but without stopping for conversation.

Then came the Queen, who spoke, sometimes for one or two minutes, to almost every person known to her, conversing familiarly with the ladies, and with great affability.

The chamberlain of the household led the Queen, and an officer of her household handed each of the princesses.

The entrance to the drawing-room was by three doors: at those on the sides the company entered; the central doors were only thrown open for their majesties, or some of the royal family; the officers of the household stood on each side; and the lord chamberlain attended whenever their majesties passed.

The etiquette was for no person to enter the drawing-room until the arrival of their majesties; but that was dispensed with on crowded occasions. When in the room, the King remained on the right side, and the Queen on the left, both very near to the door, and without approaching the throne.

If very crowded, it has happened that ladies were actually more than an hour in passing from the doors to the circles, though not distant more than four yards; and it has often happened that some, unable to bear the fatigue, have been obliged to go

away without reaching them. This pressure was chiefly on the side of the room occupied by the Queen, where the princesses and their ladies almost formed a crowded court of themselves.

The extreme familiarity with which the King and Queen mixed with their subjects on these occasions was particularly exemplified at the evening balls, at one of which, about this period, whilst the Prince of Wales was talking to His Majesty, he felt a severe pull at his sword, and, on looking round, perceived the diamond guard of his sword was broken off, and suspended only by a small piece of wire, which, from its elasticity, did not break.

The person whom the Prince suspected to have made this impudent attempt was very genteely dressed, and had much the appearance of a man of fashion.

The diamonds on the part of the sword on which the attempt was made were worth upwards of three thousand pounds.

To enter into all the politics of this period would far exceed our proposed limits: but we may observe that His Majesty personally approved of the policy pursued by ministers in regard to France; a policy completely adopted by the Emperor of Germany and the King of Prussia, at their interview at Pilnitz, which took place during the summer, and where the sole article of agreement was not to interfere either externally or internally with the affairs of France; but to guard against the intro-

duction of their opinions and practice, and so far to arm, if necessary.

The emigrants now began to pour in from France. Several ladies of high rank were forced to escape in male attire: and such numbers of priests and others came across the Channel in every direction, that the roads from Dover, Hastings, Eastbourne, Brighton, &c. were crowded with them coming up to town by every possible conveyance, of coaches, waggons, fish carts, &c. whilst many were obliged to walk, but attended by one small cart, in which they mounted by turns as they became fatigued. The streets of the metropolis soon swarmed with them; and as many of them were in absolute distress, subscriptions were speedily opened, which the King most benevolently patronized, both he and the Queen affording assistance to individuals of high rank, who remained ignorant of their benefactors.*

* The following is a return of the numbers of these persons in England.

French clergy supported by government.....	5000
Lay-people ditto, including women and children	2950
Clergy not supported by government, as having means in themselves, or living by their industry, about.....	500
Emigrants not supported by government, as having saved some wrecks of their fortune, including old people, women, maid servants, &c. about.....	3000
To which may be added in Jersey.....	700

Of many thousand anecdotes on this subject, we shall only select the following: when pseudo-patriotism pervaded all ranks, the inhabitants of a certain village took it into their

1792.

When the Pretender died in 1784, he left a widow, who had been born Princess of Stolberg in Germany, and who, upon his demise, quitted Florence to settle at Paris. There she lived as Countess D'Albany; but in her drawing-room there was a chair of state as Queen of Great Britain, her plate was ornamented with the British arms, and all her domestics gave her the title of Majesty. At this period, however, the horrors of the revolution rendered her residence at the French capital both unpleasant and unsafe, and she found it necessary

heads to get redress from the law against their lord, of whose tyranny they bitterly complained. The contention was great; and at length they resolved to rise in insurrection. This was effectually prevented by the curate of the village, who from his pulpit thus addressed them:—"My friends," said he, "the day of liberty and of vengeance is arrived: the individual who has so long tyrannized over you must now suffer his merited punishment. As the care of this flock has been entrusted to me, it behoves me to watch over their best interests, nor will I ever forsake their righteous cause. Suffer me only to be your leader, and swear to me that in all circumstances you will follow my example." All the villagers swore. "And," continues he, "that you further solemnly promise to enter into any engagement which I may now make, and that you remain faithful to this your oath." All the villagers exclaimed, "We do." "Well, then," solemnly taking the oath, "I swear to forgive our lord." Unexpected as this was to the villagers, they all forgave him—a circumstance which reflected no less credit on them, than on their worthy pastor.

to retire to that kingdom of which she claimed to be Queen Dowager: and it is pleasing to record that the conduct of our venerable monarch on that occasion was honorable to him both as a man and a prince, for here she met with every possible protection from the royal family, and experienced the bounteous liberality of the man, whose rights, sanctioned by a nation's choice, during the reign of his grandfather, had been personally attacked by her late husband—an example to princes, and an honor to Britain. Her pension was £1500. per annum. This lady afterwards returned to the continent, but she had not the gratitude to put on mourning for our lamented Princess Charlotte.

On the first of August, 1792, preparations being now rapidly making for the Chinese embassy, Mr. Dudley Adams had the honor of exhibiting to the King a pair of the most magnificent globes ever executed in this country. Five thousand eight hundred and sixty-four stars of different magnitudes were inserted on the celestial globe, distinguished by gold, silver, and different colored foils, on a beautiful blue enamel. The terrestrial globe was also accurately drawn, and beautifully illuminated. The two globes were mounted in gold and silver, and elicited much admiration and praise from His Majesty.

It was fashionable, amongst small wits, to laugh at the Chinese embassy, which proceeded in the autumn of this year under Lord Macartney; but the

private instructions to that nobleman, drawn up in a great measure under the King's personal inspection, manifest a depth of thought, and a patriotic feeling highly honorable to the illustrious personage who is said to have first started the idea of such an undertaking.

In these instructions it was justly observed that a greater number of English than of any other European nation had been trading to China, but without that support which other nations enjoyed, from the circumstance of these having religious missionaries admitted at the Court of Pekin, men who, in the midst of their cares for the propagation of the christian faith, were supposed not to have been unmindful of the views and interests of their respective countries; whilst the English traders remained unaided, and, as it were, unavowed, at a distance so remote as to admit of a misrepresentation of the national character and importance; and where too their occupation was not held in that esteem which might be necessary to procure them security and respect.

Under these circumstances the King felt that it became both his dignity and his character to extend his paternal regard to those his distant subjects, even if the commerce and prosperity of the nation were not concerned in their success, and to claim the Chinese emperor's protection for them, with that weight which ought to be due to the requisition of one great sovereign by another.

With strict propriety, the King also suggested that a free communication with a people, perhaps the most singular upon the globe, amongst whom civilization had existed, and the arts been cultivated, through a long series of ages, with fewer interruptions than elsewhere, was well worthy of being sought by the British nation, which had seen with pleasure, and with gratitude applauded the several voyages undertaken already by His Majesty's command, and at the public expense, in the pursuit of knowledge, and for the discovery and observation of distant countries and manners. It was judiciously added, however, that in seeking to improve a connexion with China, no views were entertained except those of the general interests of humanity, the mutual benefit of both nations, and the protection of commerce under the Chinese government.

In the letter also which His Majesty directed to be written to the Chinese monarch, he hinted to that Tartarian despot, that the natural disposition of a great and benevolent sovereign, whom Providence had seated upon his throne for the good of mankind, was not solely to watch over the peace and security of his dominions, but to take pains for disseminating happiness, virtue, and knowledge, amongst his subjects, and extending the same beneficence, with all the peaceful arts, as far as he might be able, to the whole human race.

This was a lesson which other than Chinese monarchs might learn with propriety.

Another royal visit took place at Weymouth this year, on the seventeenth of August, the family setting off from Windsor at an early hour, and arriving on their route at Salisbury at eleven, where they partook of some refreshment at the Episcopal Palace, and afterwards examined the cathedral, which had been recently repaired. With these arrangements the King expressed himself much satisfied, particularly admiring the painted window and new organ, the latter of which was the royal gift, presented by the King, as an inhabitant of that diocese when residing at Windsor.

Mr. Corfe, the organist, had the honor of exhibiting its powers in the coronation anthem, the Hallelujah chorus, and other pieces, with which the King was particularly pleased; and after a stay of two hours, the royal party continued their journey to Weymouth, where they arrived in the evening, amidst illuminations, and all the other usual ceremonies of loyal joy and duty. It was during this visit to Weymouth that war with France was finally determined on; and, as has been said, by His Majesty's express will, against the advice of Mr. Pitt.

Whilst the royal family were at Weymouth, in September of this year, they rode out to Dorchester, to survey the new county gaol, where a farmer of the name of Pitfield, who had been confined seven years for a debt incurred by a lawyer's bill, on his

knees presented a petition to the King, who was so much struck with the hardship of the poor fellow's case, that he instantly directed the amount, £220. to be paid, and the unhappy man was accordingly liberated, and restored to his family.

Early in September, addresses of thanks for the royal proclamation against seditious writings, principally occasioned by Paine's publications, came in from all quarters, to the number of three hundred and forty-one, including almost all the counties, corporations, cities, boroughs, and towns, in Great Britain.

An interesting anecdote of this period we select on the authority of a reverend divine, whose character gives a sanction to its truth. In one of his morning strolls through the streets of Windsor, the King turned into the shop of a bookseller, who was still in bed. He amused himself in looking round the shop, while the boy stole up stairs to call his master. In the mean time, the King had stumbled on some copies of Paine's Rights of Man; and, seating himself on the counter, was employed in reading it, when the bookseller bustled into the shop. Seeing the obnoxious work which the King was perusing, he considered himself lost; and as the King kept the book close to his face, and was intently engaged in reading, he found it impossible to disturb him, though he coughed loud, and knocked the bundles about, and changed the places

of all the chairs and tables. At length, arriving at a period in the sum or argument, the King looked up, and seeing the bookseller, entered into familiar chat, and laying the book on the counter, presently retired in his usual good humour. The bookseller was nevertheless uneasy; but he never afterwards observed any difference in the conduct of the King towards him, though, on turning up the pamphlet at the place where the royal reader had paused, there was found in that page the famous passage in which Paine unceremoniously asserted, that the King had not sufficient capacity to make a parish constable.

In the royal speech at the opening of parliament in December, His Majesty expressly declared, that he had carefully observed a strict neutrality in the existing war on the continent, and had uniformly abstained from any interference with respect to the internal affairs of France; but he very properly observed, that it had become impossible for him not to see, with the most serious uneasiness, strong and unceasing indications appearing there of an intention to excite disturbances in other countries, to disregard the rights of neutral nations, and to pursue views of aggrandisement and conquest. Under these considerations, it is not irrelevant here to record an anecdote we have seen, which states, that when His Majesty was informed of the assassination of the King of Sweden, by Ankerstroem, he made particular inquiries of a diplomatic character,

conversant with the circumstances, with a view to obtain an accurate knowledge of the particulars connected with the perpetration of that diabolical act. This gentleman, in giving the relation to His Majesty, thought it necessary to introduce some cautionary observations on the danger of a sovereign exposing his person too incautiously, in times when the revolutionary rage of France had already extended its contagion to all other countries. But here the King cut the speaker short, by saying, "Nay, Sir, I must differ from you there; for if there be any man so desperate as to devote his own life to the chance of taking away the life of another, no precaution is sufficient to prevent him altogether from making the attempt; while a system of constant precaution against such dangers, (as they are in a thousand instances to one wholly imaginary,) converts the life of a person who is so guarded into a scene of perpetual restraint, anxiety, and apprehension. No, Sir; the best security that a man can have against such dangers, is to act openly and boldly as a man. If an attack be made upon him, his best chance of escaping is to meet it like a man; but if he should fall under it, why, Sir, he will fall like a man."

1793.

The King having repeatedly declared, that he was fatigued with the heavy dulness to which in the ancient stately ball-room on court galas he was

almost forced to attend, the Queen determined to present him with an agreeable surprise; and accordingly gave a ball and supper at Windsor on the tenth of January, on an extensive and most superb scale. The dances all went off to Highland tunes, and the King was very much gratified. The birthday, as usual, took place a week afterwards, and was observed at court as a grand gala; when the union of parties, and the general junction that animated the people of England against the tyrannical republicanism of France, rendered the scene at St. James's one of the most splendid that had ever greeted their majesties since the coronation.

The King was always attentive to the smallest minutiæ connected with the affairs of the nation, particularly in regard to the army, more especially his own guards; and had for some time felt displeased with a custom which had existed for years, for the colonel of the guard for the day to give a dinner at some of the coffee-houses in St. James's Street to the officers on duty with him. The consequence of these dinner parties was, that the bill often came to twenty or twenty-five pounds; and the treat, thus sanctioned by custom, became extremely prejudicial to the pecuniary concerns of many officers arriving at that rank without commensurate private fortunes.

The King was at length so fully convinced of this custom being injurious, yet not wishing to put it aside in toto, that he resolved to take the expense

upon himself; and accordingly gave orders that a daily table of nine covers in the first course, and nine in the second, with a dessert, wine, &c. should be provided, for which he allowed seven hundred pounds per annum out of the privy purse; and also directed that some apartments should be repaired, and a new one built in the engine court, for the general accommodation of the officers of the guard on duty.

The battalions of Guards destined for foreign service having received marching orders, were drawn up on the parade, before the Horse Guards, on the twenty-fifth of February, whither the King and royal family came to inspect and take leave of them; the King mounted on a white charger, and in general's uniform, and attended by the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, and several general and staff officers.

The King, with the most condescending kindness, minutely inspected them for upwards of half an hour, when the three battalions passed him by companies, moving to slow time, the officers saluting as they passed, marching off towards Westminster bridge for embarkation at Greenwich, to which place they were followed, in the rear, by the royal party, the Queen and princesses in coaches. As every boat left the shore, three cheers were given: the King took off his hat, and the Queen and princesses waved their handkerchiefs. It was impossible that Englishmen could witness such a display of loyalty on the one hand, and affectionate

condescension on the other, without expressing their feelings upon it. The spectators joined in the cheers of the soldiers, and frequently accompanied them in singing, "God save the King;" but, in spite of this apparent cheerfulness, the Queen and the Princess Elizabeth, in particular, could not refrain from dropping a tear of sympathy at the departure of so many brave fellows, embarking on a service of danger, to protect their country's rights and interests.

On Whit-Tuesday, one of the most brilliant *Montems*, or Etonian processions, took place that had ever been witnessed.

About eleven the boys assembled in the court yard of the college, and were soon after properly arranged in the procession according to their rank in the school. The King, who always took great delight in this exhibition, with the Queen, Prince of Wales, Princesses, Duchess of York, and Prince William of Gloucester, arrived at the school-house about noon, and took his station in the school-yard, when the boys marched twice round in military array, with music playing, and colours flying, passing the royal family, and saluting them with a flourish of the flag.

The procession then moved, as usual, to Salt-hill, where the boys were again received by the royal family, surrounded by an immense concourse of spectators, amongst whom were a great number of the nobility and gentry, who had been old Etonians, or were the relatives of the present scholars. After

the royal salute, the usual collection took place for the captain of the school, amounting to £1000. the King and royal family contributing liberally to the salt-bearers, who, accompanied by the scouts, appeared in their dresses on the evening terrace, where they were particularly noticed by their majesties.

His Majesty this year lost an old, able, and faithful servant, Mr. Aiton, the gardener at Kew. That gentleman began as early as 1764 to be honored with the very valuable and active friendship of Sir Joseph Banks; and his excellence was also, even then, well known to the King, Mr. Aiton having been for some time in the service of the Princess Dowager at Kew, for the purpose of first forming the botanic garden. It was not however until 1789 that the King was able to give him further promotion; but which followed the death of Mr. Haverfield in that year, when, in addition to his former post, he received the very lucrative superintendence of the pleasure and kitchen gardens also.

How deservedly the King's favor was bestowed upon him appeared shortly afterwards in the publication of the *Hortus Kewensis;* wherein the richness of the catalogue, the memoirs of the introduction of the several plants into the English gardens, and the scientific execution of every part of it, were hailed by every lover of that branch of knowledge.

In the space of thirty-four years, Mr. Aiton had

collected together upwards of six thousand plants, the greatest number ever arranged in any one garden in the world; and thus, by the aid of His Majesty's munificence, the botanic garden at Kew became highly instrumental in advancing the national honor.

But His Majesty never forgot the merits of his faithful servants in their graves: accordingly, soon after Mr. Aiton's demise, he, with his usual mindful benignity, thought proper to shew one further proof of his regard, by appointing a worthy son to all his father's offices.

That the King was gifted with strong natural courage we have seen in several instances; and every branch of his family, when exposed to danger, have displayed the same. One instance of this we have in the conduct of Prince Adolphus, who in the month of September was wounded in an affair, whilst with the British army before Dunkirk. He afterwards came over on the thirteenth of September, simply as an officer, and in the strictest incognito, with his helmet on through which he was cut in the eye, his coat also bearing sabre marks, slept at a private gentleman's in Thatched Court, St. James's, and set off next morning to visit his august parents at Kew Palace.

The political events of this year were high and important; but belong more properly to history than to the present sketch.

It is needless here to recount the declaration of

war against France already noticed, or the political steps that led to it; nor shall we expatiate on the jacobinical proceedings at home, as such animadversions would lead to too wide a field of discussion. We may here record however that His Majesty took a very strong personal share in the measures of the time; and that it was his own private judgment and feelings which formed his opinion of Mr. Fox's then political principles, and led him some years afterwards to strike the name of the "man of the people" from the list of privy counsellors, in consequence of his giving a toast too much in unison with the seditious temper of the times. It was unfortunate for that highly gifted individual that he was an oppositionist at the commencement of the revolution, as we firmly and seriously believe, that had he been in power, the constitution of Britain would not have had a more zealous defender against the revolutionary excesses of France.

During this turmoil of parties at home, and of aggression from abroad, His Majesty did not suffer affairs of state to turn his thoughts unnecessarily from objects of internal improvement. He became this year the patron and zealous promoter of the Board of Agriculture.

1794.

After the capture of Bastia in 1794, and the expulsion of the French troops from the island of

Corsica, the assembly of the general consulta took place at Corte, under the cognizance of the late Lord Minto, when they chose Paoli as their president, and Pozzo di Borgo as their secretary; soon after which they declared the separation of Corsica from France: and with the utmost unanimity, joined to the strongest demonstrations of universal satisfaction and joy, voted the union of that island to the crown of Great Britain; so that His Majesty had now the crown of Corsica to add to the three of his former dominions.

This, however, was a regal title which he did not long retain, as a revolution took place in Corsica in 1796, and the title was judiciously laid aside.

On Lord Howe's arrival with the channel fleet and prizes at Spithead, after the glorious victory of the first of June, the King set off for Portsmouth, where he arrived, in company with the Queen and various branches of the royal family; and was received on alighting at the commissioner's house by Lord Howe and the governor, and by them conducted to the dock-yard, where the royal party embarked for Spithead.

On his first arrival the whole garrison was under arms; and the concourse of spectators was immense. The King appeared delighted with the scene, and carried in his own hand a superb diamond-hilted sword, intended for a present to the gallant naval commander.

On arriving near the Queen Charlotte, Lord Howe's flag was shifted to a frigate, and the royal standard hoisted on board the former ship, whither the royal party now repaired, remaining on board until the evening, mixing with and conversing almost with all ranks with the greatest condescension and cheerfulness. During the visit His Majesty presented Lord Howe with the sword, with gold chains and medals to the other flag officers; and the royal family on their return to Portsmouth rowed up the harbour to inspect the French prizes, a sight which afforded them high satisfaction.

The next day their majesties held a levee, at which all ranks of officers were admitted, and afterwards returned to dine with the commissioner, sailing up the harbour in the evening again to inspect the naval trophies so happily won.

Great rejoicings and illuminations took place on this and the preceding evening; and on the next day, Saturday, the whole of the royal party attended to witness the launching of the Prince of Wales, a fine second-rate. As soon as she was brought to her moorings, the royal party again embarked, in order to go on board the Aquilon frigate, amongst the cheering of multitudes, who made the air ring, and the joyous sounds of bands of music that played in the dock-yard, and on board of the various ships and yachts in the harbour.

As the royal barges approached Spithead, a gene-

His Royal Highness

Augustus Frederick

Duke of Sussex,

Born Jan.y 27: 1773.

ral salute was fired, the crews cheering as the barges passed each respective ship; soon after which they went on board the Aquilon, Captain Stopford, who instantly got under weigh; when another salute was fired, the bands of the different ships playing martial symphonies during the greatest part of the day.

The Aquilon, after sailing round the fleet, bore away towards the Needles; but owing to there being very little wind, soon after getting near to Cowes Point, in going about, she touched the ground, by which accident they were delayed an hour or two: and night coming on, their majesties and all the royal party took to their barges, the ship not being got off till the rising of the tide.

On Monday their majesties, with Prince Ernest and the princesses, went on board the Niger frigate, and sailed for Southampton, where they landed in the afternoon, and immediately proceeded in carriages for Windsor.

In August, at His Majesty's suit, the cause respecting the marriage of the present Duke of Sussex and Lady Augusta Murray, which had been solemnized in Italy, and afterwards at the parish church of St. George, Hanover-square, was finally determined in Doctors' Commons, when Sir William Wynne delivered the judgment of the court, that the marriage was utterly null and void, declaring also that the ceremony performed at Rome

was also, by the law of this country, invalid and illegal.

At this time the following anecdote, highly honorable to His Majesty, was in confidential circulation:

During a late administration, it was thought expedient to offer a noble lord, very high in the naval profession, and very deservedly a favorite of his sovereign and his country, the office of general of the marines, held by Admiral Forbes, and spontaneously conferred upon him by His Majesty, as a reward for his many and long services. A message was sent by the ministers to say it would forward the King's service if he would resign; and that he should be no loser by his accommodating the government, as they proposed recommending it to the King to give him a pension in Ireland of £3000. per annum, and a peerage to descend to his daughter. To this Admiral Forbes sent an immediate answer: he told the ministers, the generalship of the marines was a military employment given him by His Majesty, as a reward for his services—that he thanked God he had never been a burthen to his country, which he had served during a long life to the best of his ability—and that he would not condescend to accept of a pension, or bargain for a peerage. He concluded, by laying his generalship of the marines, together with his rank in the navy, at the King's feet, entreating

him to take both away, if they could forward his service: and, at the same time, assuring His Majesty he would never prove himself unworthy of the former honors he had received, by ending the remnant of a long life on a pension, or accepting of a peerage, obtained by political arrangement. His gracious master applauded his spirit, ever after continued him in his high military honors, and to the day of his death condescended to shew him strong marks of his regard.

In the latter end of September a most diabolical attempt was in progress for the assassination of His Majesty, by means of a poisoned arrow, which was to be aimed at his breast from the pit of the theatre, by means of an air machine of a particular construction, and which was intended to be put in force on the first public appearance of the royal family at either of the winter theatres, to facilitate which a riot was to be produced by preconcerted measures.

The plot was the work of one Higgins, apprentice to a chymist, and Le Maitre, apprentice to a watchmaker; and its discovery was owing to a gentleman accidentally looking into the shop of the artist who was to make the arrow; and having observed an inflammatory kind of hand-bill in the window, he remonstrated with the master of the shop on the impropriety of exhibiting it, but without effect, and departed. But having occasion, soon after, to return the same way, he was accosted by

the man, who expressed a desire to have some further conversation with him, when the whole general outlines of a plot were developed.

An investigation immediately took place before the privy council; when the parties were committed, not indeed upon the charge of the plot, but on treasonable practices, as members of the Corresponding Society.

1795.

The reception which the Prince of Orange, and his family, met with from the King, in 1795, was affectionate, hospitable, and cordial; and Hampton Court was soon after assigned him for a residence, when the various branches of the royal family, and indeed the nation at large, vied with each other in demonstrations of respect, compassion, and attention, towards these expatriated unfortunates.

It was in this year that the military rank of field-marshal was first introduced; and it was on the eighth of April that the marriage of the Heir-Apparent took place.

How much the King was interested in this match was manifested by several minute circumstances connected with the ceremonial of the day. The whole of the royal family having dined together at the Queen's Palace, it was necessary afterwards for them to proceed to St. James's to their respective apartments to dress; and on leaving Buckingham

House, the good old King not only saluted the Princess in the hall, but gave the Prince of Wales such a hearty shake of the hand as brought tears into his eyes.

When the service was performing, and the Archbishop of Canterbury came to that part where it is asked "who gives the bride in marriage?" His Majesty instantly and eagerly advanced to the Princess, and taking her with both his hands, presented her with the greatest marks of satisfaction.

His Majesty was also carefully watchful of the conduct of all; and the Prince, after repeating his part of the service with great clearness and precision, having risen too soon from his kneeling posture, the archbishop paused, when the King instantly observing the accidental error, rose from his seat, and whispered the Prince, who kneeled again, and the service was concluded.

After the ceremonial, their majesties held a drawing-room, which was numerously and brilliantly attended: and on its close the whole of the royal family returned to the Queen's Palace to supper, quite in a domestic style, the new married pair retiring to Carlton House at midnight.

The next morning, the King and Queen, previous to setting off for Windsor, paid them a nuptial visit, after which the bride and bridegroom set off for Windsor also, where the honey-moon was commenced under auspices which unhappily failed to be

as permanent as a loyal nation were anxious that they should prove.

On the eleventh of May, the first division of the troops from the continent arrived at Greenwich, to which place His Majesty went to meet them; when a very great concourse of people were assembled, who congratulated their return with a warmth of acclamation which did honor to their feelings, and not only sensibly affected the objects of it, but also made a great impression upon the King.

In the summer of this year, previous to the trip to Weymouth, His Majesty, with a munificence worthy of his station, erected a mill in Windsor Park, where he caused corn to be ground, and retailed to the poor at a cheap rate. In order to render this more practically useful, he first instituted a careful inquiry throughout the towns of Windsor, Stains, Egham, and their vicinities, for such as were objects deserving of this bounty: to these tickets were given, which entitled them to flour gratis; intending to have continued it upon that plan generally; but excess and fraud having soon ensued, he found it necessary to depart in some degree from his benevolent plan, and to fix a certain price, selling that for five shillings and fourpence in flour per bushel, which in corn cost fifteen shillings and sixpence in Egham market.

When the French princes first began to collect an emigrant corps in Germany, those troops, together

with other free corps, were stationed with the British army in the field, and afterwards provisorily quartered in the Electorate of Hanover, till such time as they could be removed elsewhere; but it was soon found that their residence there not only produced considerable disorder, but also became both grievous and oppressive to the people of Hanover. In consequence of this, on the twenty-ninth of September, the King, as Elector of Hanover, found it necessary to issue a proclamation, ordering the whole of them to be removed; adding also, as a reason, that he, as elector, had declared his acquiescence in the treaty concluded at Basle in the preceding April, between the King of Prussia and the French government.

On the twenty-ninth of October, whilst proceeding to open the parliamentary session, and surrounded by a most ferocious mob, who manifested a truly jacobinical spirit, a pebble was either thrown at, or discharged into his coach; but the King, without any apparent alarm, displayed a calmness and self-possession highly honorable to his character, both as a man and a monarch: and even in his conduct during the subsequent investigations, he fully exhibited a generosity of feeling, and an unwillingness to go beyond the limits of prerogative or the constitution, which fully justified an observation already noted, that His Majesty would live on bread and water to preserve the constitution of

this country, and would sacrifice his life to maintain it inviolate.

The whole occurrences of that day, indeed, deserve a minute detail, we shall therefore observe, that although there was no apparent reason for previous alarm, yet early in the day the Mall and Parade of St. James's Park and Parliament-street were completely choked up with spectators. It was remarked that the crowd was by no means so great at the coronation ; and, to see the King go to the house, there never had been more than a tenth of those assembled this day, computed to amount at least to two hundred thousand !

Several noblemen and cabinet ministers passed through the Park, from Buckingham House, about two o'clock. The Duke of Gloucester, Duke of Portland, Earl of Chatham, and many others, were very much hissed and hooted.

About twenty minutes afterwards the King also left Buckingham House, and was violently hissed and hooted, and groaned at the whole way ; but no violence was offered until he arrived near St. Margaret's Church, when a small pebble, or marble, was thrown, and broke one of the windows. This was picked up by the King himself, who very calmly presented it to one of the noblemen in the coach, saying, " Keep this, as a mark of the civilities we have met with to-day !"

In returning, the moment His Majesty entered

the Park, the gates of the Horse Guards were shut, for the purpose of excluding the mob who followed the carriage; at which, as it passed Spring Garden Terrace, another stone was thrown: but it fortunately struck the wood-work between the windows.

The crowd now pressed closely round the coach; and the King was observed, by waving his hands to the Horse Guards on each side, to signify a wish that the multitude should be kept at a distance. In this way he passed on through the Park, and round by the stable-yard into St. James's Palace, at the front gate at the bottom of St. James's Street. A considerable tumult took place when His Majesty was about to alight; and one of the horses in the state coach was so alarmed as to plunge and kick, throwing down one of the grooms with some dangerous fractures. A few minutes after the King entered the palace, the mob attacked the state coach with stones, and did it much injury; and in its way from Pall Mall to the Mews, many missiles were thrown at it.

After a short period the King set off in his private coach from St. James's to the Queen's Palace; but on his way through the Park the mob surrounded the carriage, and prevented it from proceeding, crying out, "Bread! bread! peace! peace!" The Guards were however speedily brought up, and they accompanied the carriage until His Majesty got safe to Buckingham House.

Throughout the whole of this scene, His Majesty

displayed the greatest coolness and presence of mind. Even at the time when the glass of the coach was broken, he cooly said to Lord Westmoreland—"That's a shot." Yet, instead of leaning back in the carriage, or striving to avoid the assassin, he pointed to the hole, and examined it. On his arrival, indeed, in the House of Peers, he seemed a little flurried; but merely said to the lord chancellor—"My lord, I have been shot at."

This, indeed, was the only agitation he displayed; for with the most conscious integrity he required no guards when getting into his private carriage, but set off boldly in the midst of the wildest commotions of the multitude, when his person was certainly for a short time in the most imminent danger.

Three or four persons were taken up immediately, on suspicion of having thrown the stones; and one of them, Kyd Wake, was charged with having called out—"No King," and such disloyal expressions; yet there was evidently no settled plan of insult in the great body of the people; and perhaps the commotion in the Park arose as much out of curiosity to see what was going on as from any sinister intention. But it is impossible to say to what lengths the mob might have been instigated, had not a military force arrived in sufficient time to repel the first insults.

The coachman afterwards declared, that he had never been so frightened in his life, as he was

whilst the mob was pressing round the carriage. He was fearful of putting his horses into a gallop, as they were so full of spirit as to render him apprehensive that he should not be able to stop them; and he was equally afraid of preserving his usual pace, lest he might expose his sovereign to still more serious dangers. The manner in which he stated his embarrassment, before the lords, displayed the most grateful zeal, and a most feeling heart.

The following letter was written by the late Earl of Onslow, upon this occasion.

October 29, 1795, 12 *at night.*

"Before I sleep, let me bless God for the miraculous escape which my King, my country, and myself, have had this day. Soon after two o'clock, His Majesty, attended by the Earl of Westmoreland and myself, set out from St. James's in his state coach, to open the session of parliament. The multitude of people in the Park was prodigious. A sudden silence, I observed to myself, prevailed through the whole, very few individuals excepted. No hats, or at least very few, pulled off; little or no huzzaing, and frequently a cry of 'Give us bread;' 'No war;' and once or twice 'No King,'—with hissing and groaning..... Nothing material, however, happened till we got down to the narrowest part of the street, called St. Margaret's, between the two Palace-yards, when the moment we had passed the Office of Ordnance, and were just oppo-

site the parlor window of the house adjoining it, a small ball, either of lead or marble, passed through the window-glass on the King's right hand, and perforated it, leaving a small hole, the bigness of the top of my little finger (which I instantly put through it to mark the size), and passed through the coach out of the other door, the glass of which was down. We all instantly exclaimed, 'This is a shot!' The King showed, and I am persuaded, felt no alarm; much less fear, to which indeed he is insensible. We proceeded to the House of Lords, when, on getting out of the coach, I first, and the King immediately after, said to the lord chancellor, who was waiting at the bottom of the stairs to receive the King, 'My lord, we have been shot at.' The King ascended the stairs robed, and then, perfectly free from the smallest agitation, read his speech with peculiar correctness, and even less hesitation than usual. At his unrobing afterwards, when the event got more known (I having told it to the Duke of York's ear, as I passed him under the throne, and to others who stood near us), it was, as might be supposed, the only topic of conversation, in which the King joined with much less agitation than any body else. And afterwards, in getting into the coach, the first words he said were, 'Well, my lords, one person is *proposing* this, and another is *supposing* that, forgetting that there is One above us all who *disposes* of every thing, and on whom alone we depend.' The

magnanimity, piety, and good sense of this, struck me most forcibly, and I shall never forget the words.

"On our return home to St. James's, the mob was increased in Parliament-street and Whitehall, and when we came into the Park it was still greater. It was said that not less than one hundred thousand persons were there, and all of the worst and lowest sort. The scene opened; and the insulting abuse offered to His Majesty was what I can never think of but with horror; nor ever forget what I felt when they proceeded to throw stones into the coach, several of which hit the King, which he bore with signal patience; but not without sensible marks of indignation and resentment at the indignities offered to his person and office. The glasses were all broken to pieces; and in this situation we were during our passage through the Park. The King took one of the stones out of the cuff of his coat, where it had lodged, and gave it to me, saying, 'I make you a present of this, as a mark of the civilities we have met with on our journey to-day."

After the King had passed through the Park, in the first instance, the avenues to Westminster Hall were very prudently closed: the crowd then flocked to Storey's Gate; and, sledge hammers being procured, a party were preparing to force open the great gate, when a gentleman present recommended them to commit no violence, as a strong guard was near at hand. This prudent admonition was answered by repeated invectives, and a cry of "Start

him, start him!" and the gentleman would probably have been massacred, but for the humane assistance of the master of the Storey's Gate coffee-house, who facilitated his escape into Prince's Court, unobserved by the rioters.

The troops, it is proper to observe, during the whole of the business of this day, conducted themselves with the utmost propriety. The zeal they displayed in protecting the royal person, and the consequent welfare of the nation, reflected equal honor on them as men and as soldiers. One of the Horse Guards was going, indeed, to cut down a man, whom he conceived to have made the attack upon the sovereign; but the humane interposition of His Majesty, who declared he was not the person, saved his life.

After the King's arrival at the Queen's Palace, though idle crowds loitered about, there was no attempt at further insult; and the very next night, confident in the general attachment of his people, notwithstanding the alarms of the preceding day, His Majesty, accompanied by the Queen and Princesses, hesitated not to visit Covent Garden theatre, where their entrance was hailed by an overflowing house, with much more than even the usual bursts of applause.

"God save the King" was sung twice; and being called for a third time by a great majority of the audience, some of the discontented reformers in a corner of the gallery ventured to utter hisses; but they

were instantly silenced by the persons near them: and a few of the most turbulent being turned out, peace, harmony, and loyalty, were again triumphant.

In consequence of the outrage, Lord Grenville, on the sixth of November, introduced a bill into parliament for the better preservation of His Majesty's person; not only making it high treason to wound or assail the royal person, but also a high misdemeanor to utter seditious expressions against him; authorising magistrates to put a stop also to all public meetings likely to breed discontent in the minds of the people.

A circumstance, respecting addresses, took place this year, which, from its coincidence with former demands of the corporation of London upon that point, merits special notice.

After the outrage offered to His Majesty, just recorded, in his way to the House of Lords, an address was voted by the bishop, dean, and chapter of St. Paul's, and clergy of London and Westminster, which the bishop (Porteus) was deputed to present on the third of December. According to usual custom, Dr. Porteus sent a copy of the address to the Duke of Portland, then home secretary of state, requesting him to take the King's pleasure when he would receive it; and the duke in a few days returned an answer that His Majesty would receive it, not on the throne, but at the levee. But the bishop being aware of the existence of a privilege of the London clergy,

founded on ancient custom, immediately desired an interview with the duke, and shewed him some papers, which fully established the fact that addresses from the clergy of the metropolis were always received on the throne. The noble secretary promised to state this next day to the King, who was instantly convinced of its propriety, and complied with the privilege as claimed by the worthy prelate.

1796.

Another disloyal insult was offered to His Majesty on the first of February, 1796, in returning from Drury Lane theatre; when, just as the royal carriage had reached the end of John Street, Pall Mall, a stone was flung with such force as to break one of the glass pannels in the coach where their majesties sat, accompanied only by the lady in waiting, Countess of Harrington, into whose lap the stone fell, after hitting the Queen on the cheek.

There was no other attempt at riot; but a reward of one thousand pounds was offered for discovery of the offender.

This disposition to riot was a little checked soon after, by the conviction and sentence of Kyd Wake, for the riot in 1795, to five years hard labour, with one exhibition in the pillory, and one thousand pounds bail for ten years good behaviour.

Another maniacal attempt was made on the royal

family early in February, in which a woman, genteely dressed, found means to get into the Queen's House, and was passing to the Queen's apartments, where she was discovered by a servant, who insisted on her telling where she was going, when she replied she was going to her mother, Mrs. Guelph, the Queen, who had got some writings belonging to her; and if her mother did not give them up, she would find means to commit some horrid act. Upon this some of the servants secured her, and she was given into the custody of the patrole; and on the ensuing Monday morning, at an early hour, she was brought to Bow Street, and underwent an examination before William Addington, Esq. during which she appeared very much composed. She said her name was Charlotte Georgina Mary Ann Guelph. She persisted in the story she told at the Queen's House the night before, of the Queen being her mother, &c. She further said, that the late Duke of York was her father; that she was born at Rome; and that she was sold to a gentleman in Spain, &c.

The hopes of the nation had at this period been much excited by the birth of an heiress presumptive to the British throne; and on the eleventh of the month, between eight and nine o'clock, her royal highness, the infant princess, daughter of their Royal Highnesses the Prince and Princess of Wales, was christened in the great drawing-room, by his Grace the Archbishop of

Canterbury. Her Royal Highness was named Charlotte Augusta. The sponsors were their majesties in person, and Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Brunswick, grandmother of the infant, represented by the Princess Royal.

A very brilliant Montem took place this year, respecting which the King felt highly interested. The procession set off early, consisting of youths of the first families in the kingdom; and when they came to Salt-hill, they were met by the King and the Prince of Wales on horseback, Her Majesty and the princesses being in carriages. The King took on himself the ordering and marshalling the multitude assembled, in such a manner that the procession might pass freely round the royal carriages; many of the crowd, notwithstanding, pressed so close, that His Majesty was obliged to call them to order; and asked several of those who appeared to be Londoners, "If they were members of Eton, as he could not recognize their persons sufficiently to recollect them."

When the Montem was over, the King himself requested, that on their return home from the Windmill inn, where an elegant dinner was provided, they might appear on Windsor Terrace at the usual hour of the evening promenade.

Amongst the numerous libels which issued at this period from the licentious part of the press against His Majesty, one of the most gross was by the well known Daniel Isaac Eaton, who appears to have in this

case been an instance of the truth of the old adage, "that familiarity breeds contempt,"—for Eaton, as already stated, in consequence of his father or uncle having held some situation about the court, had, in boyhood, not only been known personally to His Majesty, when Prince George, but had in some measure been at times his playfellow.

At the period in question Eaton was a bookseller in Newgate-street, and had published a work stating the word "King" to mean "cunning and craft, which would soon be in disrepute in this country"—a "niggard" to mean a "king who had defrauded his subjects of nine millions of money"—adding, "Oh! Mr. Guelph, where do you expect to go when you die?" and recommending the guillotine, &c. in the true style of revolutionary jargon.

For this libel he was tried on the eighth of July, at Guildhall, and found guilty, to the great satisfaction of all loyal subjects and friends of tranquillity, after a most admirable address from Lord Kenyon, in which his lordship very appropriately observed, that the benevolent and pious monarch, like Samuel, the Judge of Israel, might appeal to his subjects, and say, "Whose ox have I taken? whose ass have I taken? whom have I defrauded? whom have I oppressed?"—Questions so home to the feelings, and to the information of every unprejudiced mind, that the result of judicial investigation hung not for a moment doubtful.

It was much to be lamented that the pen of the libeller should thus have been so busy against His Majesty, whose private conduct ought to have endeared him to his subjects; and in nothing more than in this, that the clamors of faction or sedition never caused him to depart from his exertions for the public good, and the promotion of charitable purposes; an instance of which he gave this year, in becoming patron of the society for bettering the condition of the poor.

In political affairs, too, he was equally active, and in none more so than his desire, if possible, to bring about a general peace, agreeably to the wishes expressed by his subjects in numerous petitions.

Throughout this memoir we have avoided discussions on general politics; but as, in the occurrences of this year, His Majesty was personally connected with the passing events in the public opinion, and even accused of insincerity in regard to the negotiations for peace, some little notice becomes necessary.

The state of the country, at the commencement of these negotiations, will be best understood by a few short extracts from the royal speech on the sixth of October, when he said:

"My Lords and Gentlemen,

"It is a peculiar satisfaction to me, in the present conjuncture of affairs, to recur to your advice, after the recent opportunity which has been given for collecting the sense of my people, engaged in

a difficult and arduous contest for the preservation of all that is most dear to us.

"I have omitted no endeavors for setting on foot negotiations to restore peace to Europe, and to secure for the future the general tranquillity.

"The steps which I have taken for this purpose have at length opened the way to an immediate and direct negotiation, the issue of which must either produce the desirable end of a just, honorable, and solid peace, for us and for our allies, or must prove, beyond dispute, to what cause alone the prolongation of the calamities of war must be ascribed."

"Gentlemen of the House of Commons,

"I rely on your zeal and public spirit for such supplies as you may think necessary for the service of the year.

"It is a great satisfaction to me to observe, that notwithstanding the temporary embarrassments which have been experienced, the state of the commerce, manufactures, and the revenue, of the country, proves the real extent and solidity of our resources, and furnishes you such means as must be equal to any exertions which the present crisis may require.

"The general attachment of my people to the British constitution has appeared on every occasion; and the endeavors of those who wished to introduce anarchy and confusion into this country have been repressed by the energy and wisdom of the laws."

The first overtures were made through the medium of the Danish ambassador; but even from the outset little hopes of accommodation could be entertained, particularly when we recollect the declaration of the enemy, in all the pride of revolutionary republicanism:—

"That the executive directory of the French Republic would not for the future receive or answer any confidential overtures, or papers, transmitted through any intermediate channel from the enemies of the republic; but that, if they would send persons furnished with full powers and official papers, these might, upon the frontiers, demand the passports necessary for proceeding to Paris."

After much shuffling with the British ambassador, on his arrival at Paris, his lordship found it necessary to transmit a note, in which he said, "with respect to the positive demand of an ultimatum, Lord Malmesbury observes, that on insisting on that point in so peremptory a manner, before the two powers shall have communicated to each other their respective pretensions, and that the articles of the future treaty shall have been submitted to the discussions which the different interests which are to be adjusted necessarily demand, is to shut the door against all negotiation. He therefore can add nothing to the assurances which he has already given to the minister for foreign affairs, as well by word of mouth as in his official note: and he repeats that he is ready to enter with that minister

into every explanation of which the state and progress of the negotiation may admit, and that he will not fail to enter into the discussion of the proposals of his court, or of any contre-project which may be delivered to him, on the part of the Executive Directory, with that candor and that spirit of conciliation which correspond with the just and pacific sentiments of his court."

The French reply to this was evasive, but sufficiently intelligible, where it said, " as Lord Malmesbury announces at every communication that he is in want of the advice of his court, from which it results that he acts a part merely passive in the negotiation, which renders his presence at Paris useless; the undersigned is further charged to give him notice to depart from Paris in eight and forty hours, with all the persons who have accompanied and followed him, and to quit as expeditiously as possible the territory of the republic."

The ambassador, of course, asked for his passports; and soon after a declaration was published, the principal purport of which was, that " the negotiation, which an anxious desire for the restoration of peace had induced His Majesty to open at Paris, having been abruptly terminated by the French government, the King thinks it due to himself and to his people to state, in this public manner, the circumstances, which have preceded and attended a transaction of so much importance to the general interests of Europe.

"It is well known, that early in the present year, His Majesty, laying aside the consideration of many circumstances of difficulty and discouragement, determined to take such steps as were best calculated to open the way for negotiation, if any corresponding desire prevailed on the part of his enemies. He directed an overture to be made in his name by his minister in Swisserland, for the purpose of ascertaining the dispositions of the French government with respect to peace. The answer which he received in return was at once haughty and evasive: it affected to question the sincerity of those dispositions of which His Majesty's conduct afforded so unequivocal a proof; it raised groundless objections to the mode of negotiation proposed by His Majesty (that of a general congress, by which peace has so often been restored to Europe); but it studiously passed over in silence His Majesty's desire to learn what other mode would be preferred by France. It at the same time asserted a principle, which was stated as an indispensable preliminary to all negotiation—a principle under which the terms of peace must have been regulated, not by the usual considerations of justice, policy, and reciprocal convenience; but by an implicit submission, on the part of all other powers, to a claim founded on the internal laws and separate constitution of France, as having full authority to supersede the treaties entered into by independent states, to govern their interests, to control

their engagements, and to dispose of their dominions.

"A pretension in itself so extravagant could in no instance have been admitted, nor even listened to for a moment. Its application to the present case led to nothing less than that France should, as a preliminary to all discussion, retain nearly all her conquests, and those particularly in which His Majesty was most concerned, both from the ties of interest, and the sacred obligations of treaties; that she should, in like manner, recover back all that had been conquered from her in every part of the world; and that she should be left at liberty to bring forward such further demands, on all other points of negotiation, as such unqualified submission on the part of those with whom she treated could not fail to produce."

If this needed a comment, such would be found in an amendment proposed by Lord Fitzwilliam to the address of the Lords, stating, that not doubting a secure, permanent, and honorable peace to have been ever His Majesty's object, and anxious desire in this, as in every war, we are, however, convinced by the beginning, progress, and event, of the late negotiation, that no future attempt of a similar kind on the part of this country can be wise, decorous, or safe, until the common enemy shall have abandoned his hostile disposition towards all other states, by ceasing to place his own internal

regulations above the public law of Europe—to insist that all others shall, in all cases, sacrifice the faith of their alliances, and the protection of their ancient and dearest interests, to the maintenance of his treaties, and the gratification of his ambition—and for ever to appeal to the people against their own lawful government.

If still doubts can exist in any breast respecting the King's personal sincerity in this affair, full proof may be found in his conduct in regard to his electoral dominions, as evinced by a note from the Hanoverian minister to the Germanic diet, in which it was stated, "that His Imperial Majesty has required directly of His Majesty the King of Great Britain, as Elector of Hanover, to furnish a new striking proof of his attachment to the Germanic constitution, by giving a great example, both by laboring effectually at the diet of Ratisbon, that a sufficient quantity of Roman months should be granted, and by causing his own quota to be immediately discharged." It was declared, in the meantime, that the number of Roman months should not exceed one hundred.

But His Britannic Majesty answered confidentially to His Imperial Majesty, "that he neither would nor could anticipate the resolutions of his co-estates; that he was himself, at the present moment, under circumstances which did not permit him to answer to what was required; that since

the last Roman months had been granted, the system of the war had been absolutely changed; that several important states of the empire had made a separate peace, in order to avoid the total ruin with which their countries had been threatened; that others had embraced a neutrality to protect their subjects; and that the prosperity which the latter enjoyed was a proof that they had attained a salutary object.

"That affairs, on the whole, now wore another aspect; that the relations of His Britannic Majesty, in quality of Elector of Hanover, were fully known, and were in direct opposition to the imperial demands; that he could not, in consequence, agree to the lending of any new Roman months for the continuation of this unfortunate war; still less could he contribute directly, as negotiations had been commenced at Paris, which promised a happy issue for the tranquillity of Europe; and which, being known to His Imperial Majesty, obliged His Britannic Majesty to withhold himself from every measure which might reflect an unfavorable colour on his personal character."

Notwithstanding the failure of the negotiations, the public were not dissatisfied. Lord Mayor's Day was like most others, only the show not quite so fine. The judges, and officers of state, with several members of administration, and of the opposition, dined at Guildhall. On their procession

thither, Mr. Pitt was indeed insulted by the mob; Mr. Fox, Mr. Alderman Skinner, and Mr. Alderman Combe, on the contrary, were the favourites of the day.

The war soon began to extend itself over Europe; and on the twelfth of December, Lord Grenville presented a message from the King, in which His Majesty said, he had to lament that, notwithstanding all his endeavors, he had not been able to prevent hostilities on the part of Spain, upon terms that would be honorable to his crown, and to the interest of his dominions; the court of Spain having, with as much haste as injustice, declared war against this country; but he trusted in the firmness of his parliament, and spirit of the people, to convince all Europe that our resources were equal to maintain the dignity of the country.

Another circumstance of national interest during this year must also here be recorded. At Preston, pending an election, a number of Roman Catholics took the oath of supremacy, but qualifying their act by a public declaration, purporting, that the words, "no foreign prince, prelate, state, or potentate, hath or ought to have any jurisdiction, power, superiority, pre-eminence, or authority, ecclesiastical or spiritual, within this realm," relate merely and solely to the church of England, of which they profess that they all acknowledge the "reigning king to be the supreme head."

1797.

It is stated in Vancouver's voyage to the north-west coast of America, that the King of the Sandwich Islands, of his own free will, acknowledged fealty, accompanied by pompous ceremonies, to the King of Great Britain. As proofs of this acknowledged supremacy, he delivered several presents to Captain Vancouver for his sovereign, which were presented to the King at Buckingham House, in January, 1797, the principal of which, in allusion to the homage, consisted of two state garments and a helmet or crown. One of these was of otter skin; the other of the cloth of Owhyhee, covered with birds' feathers so ingeniously, that by a single move of the hand, like some of our jugglers' books, it would alternately display feathers of a red or yellow colour. The helmet also was of otter skin, covered with feathers in a very masterly manner, superior even to the specimens in the British Museum.

The King gave another proof of his attachment to the fine arts, about this period, in his patronage of Sir William Beechey, R.A. who had now come into notice by his portraits of several persons of high rank and fashion.

The King was so much pleased with the style in which some of these were painted, that he appointed him portrait painter to Her Majesty;

and commanded him to execute the portraits of the Queen and all the princesses, two of which appeared in the exhibition at Somerset-house, this year: and, so satisfied was His Majesty with the extent of Sir William's powers, that he entrusted to him a subject of considerable difficulty, that of the grand picture of the King himself and Princes at the review in Hyde Park.

His Majesty also made considerable additions to his collection of paintings in the course of the spring, by purchases at the famous Trumbull sale, consisting of Raphael's Virgin, Christ and St. John, the Dejanira and Centaur, and some capital cattle pieces by Berghem, all selected by the late venerable president of the Royal Academy.

Another contest respecting the receipt of petitions from the city of London in its corporate capacity took place about this period, when on the sixteenth of March, the lord mayor called the attention of the court of common-council to a requisition from forty-three liverymen, desiring him to call a common-hall, "to consider of an humble address and petition to His Majesty, upon the present alarming state of public affairs, and praying him to dismiss his present ministers from his councils for ever, as the first step towards obtaining a speedy, honorable, and permanent peace."

To this very absurd proposal, the lord mayor had merely answered that he would consult the court of aldermen, and had from them received a protest

against such a measure. He then submitted several papers to the common-council; but that body was unanimously of opinion that it would be highly improper for them to give any opinion respecting the propriety or expedience of convening the common-hall so desired.

A common-hall was, however, summoned for the twenty-third, when a petition to the purpose before expressed was almost unanimously voted, as the friends of the measure had taken early means to fill the hall with their own partisans and parasites; and the sheriffs, with the city representatives, were deputed to present it to His Majesty on the throne.

The next day the sheriffs attended at St. James's to know when the King would be pleased to receive the petition of the livery, agreeable to the form here pointed out; when they were informed that His Majesty would receive no petition from the city of London on the throne, except in its corporate capacity; but that he was willing to receive it at the levee, in the ordinary manner of accepting addresses.

A common-hall was now called on the first of April, when the lord mayor laid before the livery the report of the sheriffs, stating the answer given to them by the Duke of Portland when they attended at the levee; but the livery thought proper to resolve, that the sheriffs of London had an acknowledged right to an audience of the King, and were

in duty bound to demand the same; directing the sheriffs, attended by the remembrancer, to demand a personal audience of the King, to know when he would be pleased to receive, upon the throne, the address and petition.

In pursuance of this resolution, Sheriffs Staines and Langstone proceeded on the fifth of April to St. James's, to have a personal interview with His Majesty, to which they were admitted; and, on being introduced, explained to His Majesty the conceived right or privilege of the citizens of London, in livery, to present their addresses to the throne, informing him at the same time, that in the present instance they could not deliver their petition in any other manner.

The King, in his reply, plainly stated that he should always be ready to receive their addresses or petitions at the levee; but that he could not receive any petitions from the city of London upon the throne, except in its corporate capacity—that is, of mayor, aldermen, and common-council only; with which answer the sheriffs and remembrancer returned to the lord mayor, who called another common-hall on the twelfth, in which the report was read, with the additional circumstance, that the sheriffs had been informed officially, that the answer first given by the Duke of Portland was by His Majesty's own desire.

Two resolutions were now put and carried, declaratory of the assumed privilege; but the parti-

sans of the measure went rather too far in proposing a third resolution, which the lord mayor declared he could not, consistently with his duty to preserve inviolate the rights of the livery, admit to be put; for as the business of the day upon which the livery were met was specified in the summons issued to call them together, so it was his duty to take care that no other business should be discussed.

This was loudly resented by the demagogues; but after considerable altercation, the lord mayor ordered the insignia of office to be taken up, and the hall was, of course, dissolved: yet the reformers did not separate before a vote of censure was proposed by a leading member of the common-council, and of course carried by acclamation, against the lord mayor, for what the proposer thought proper to call "an unprecedented attack on the deliberate rights of the livery of London, in common-hall assembled."

A new requisition was next presented to the lord mayor (Brook Watson), on the twenty-second of the month, requiring him to call a common-hall within eight days, for the purpose of again taking into consideration the sheriffs' report, "to investigate the real causes of the awful and alarming state of public affairs; and to adopt such measures as may be expedient in the present conjuncture;" to which his lordship replied, on the twenty-fifth, stating his willingness to call a hall for the purpose

of taking into consideration the sheriffs' report; but at the same time declaring, that he felt it incompatible with his duty to assemble the livery for the other purposes expressed in the requisition, considering the investigation of the real causes of the state of public affairs as a proposition too extensive and unqualified to admit of discussion in an assembly confessedly not deliberative.

But the business did not drop here; for, on the third of May, another requisition was sent to the lord mayor to take into consideration the sheriffs' report: also "the grievances brought on by a corrupt system of undue influence, and the incapacity of His Majesty's ministers;" and to submit several resolutions, expressive of the sentiments of the livery, contained in the former petition, with a motion that the city representatives should be instructed to move an address to the King, "praying him to dismiss from his presence and councils his present weak and wicked ministers, as the most likely means of obtaining a speedy and permanent peace."

To this most absurd and preposterous requisition, the lord mayor returned for answer, that he would call a common-hall for all the above-mentioned purposes, except the report, which was accordingly held on the eleventh of May, when several strong resolutions to the same purport were carried by a packed and crowded hall; and the lord mayor had the singular pleasure of signing a vote of censure

on himself, for dissolving the former court, and for convening the existing court for purposes short of those mentioned in the requisition, by which, said the resolution, he "has violated the rights of the livery, has suffered his political attachments to warp his official conduct, and proved himself to be utterly undeserving of the confidence of his constituents."

This was certainly strong language; but the *Wilkes* of that day, like his predecessor, well knew that an appeal to the passions would supersede the use of reason.

The nuptials of the Princess Royal with the Prince of Wirtemberg, on the eighteenth of May, presented a most brilliant scene of courtly display; to enter into which is, however, beyond our plan, any further than to observe that the bridegroom received the hand of the royal bride from His Majesty himself, who on that occasion displayed a deep parental feeling, which was also manifested by the Queen, whilst the princesses shed tears of affection and sensibility.

As soon as the ceremony was over, which was performed by the Archbishop of Canterbury in the Chapel Royal at St. James's, the whole royal family left town for Windsor.

When the proposals were first made for the marriage, it is said that the King felt anxious to be satisfied respecting suspicions attached to the prince's character, in regard to his participation in,

or criminal knowledge of, the death of his first wife in a Russian prison, where it had been asserted to be probable that she was confined by his express desire, for real or supposed indiscretions; but his highness did away every suspicion in the clearest manner, by documents and papers the most authentic, proving that he had neither knowledge of, nor participation in, any improper measures, if such were used; which however is by no means probable. His Majesty made a full inspection of these papers, and expressed himself perfectly convinced that the prince was incontestably innocent of any blame upon that very interesting and important point.

Yet the King certainly did manifest considerable reluctance to the match; which, however, may be easily accounted for through parental attachment, and an unwillingness to have his eldest daughter separated from the family.

Notwithstanding the political clamour of the day, considerable public interest was excited by the departure of the bride for Germany on the second of June, on which morning their highnesses breakfasted at St. James's Palace, and set off from the garden gate. The princess endeavored to appear cheerful; but the faltering accents with which she bade her attendants, and the surrounding multitude, farewell, bespoke her agitation. The prince appeared several times at the window, and affectionately embraced his amiable consort on their leaving the apartments. The scene was highly

HER MAJESTY

CHARLOTTE AUGUSTA MATILDA,

QUEEN OF WIRTEMBURGH.

BORN SEPT. 19. 1766.

affecting, and drew tears from many of the spectators.

None of the royal family were present, as they had taken leave the preceding night at twelve o'clock. They were all so deeply affected on her royal highness's parting with them, that it is impossible to do justice to their feelings upon the occasion. Her Majesty and the princesses shed abundant tears, while the princess hung upon her royal father's neck, overwhelmed in grief. The prince at length prevailed on her royal highness to go with him, and supported her to the coach. The King followed them to bid his daughter an affectionate farewell; but so overpowered were his parental feelings, that he could scarcely give utterance to his words.

It was in the spring of this year that the naval mutiny took place; and at the latter end of May the ships in the river were in a complete state of insubordination.

Measures now became necessary to be taken, on behalf of government. On June the first, His Majesty communicated to parliament the disorders which had taken place in the fleet, and recommended some more effectual provision for the prevention and punishment of all traiterous attempts to excite sedition and mutiny. This communication produced immediately an act of parliament, which was completed on the sixth of June.

It is a well known fact, that the favorable ter-

mination of this unhappy affair was greatly owing to the good sense and resolution of His Majesty, joined to the mild though determined measures recommended by his paternal regard for a well meaning and meritorious, though, at that moment, misguided class of his subjects.

One of the most whimsical political manœuvres that has happened in the course of a long and turbulent reign now took place, in the secession of the whig members from the House of Commons, "wearied," as it was expressed, "with fruitless attempts; and leaving ministers and their adherents to their fate." Previous to this secession, however, Mr. Fox conceived it a duty to his country to submit to the House of Commons, on the twenty-third of May, a motion for the repeal of the Treason and Sedition Bills, which had been passed into laws near the end of the year 1795.

When the house divided, there appeared for the motion 52; against it 260. This was the last motion Mr. Fox made in that session; but, in a few days afterwards, he supported Mr. Grey's well-known motion, when, on the twenty-sixth of May, a Parliamentary Reform was again agitated in the House of Commons. Mr. Grey prefaced his motion for this purpose with a speech, in the introduction to which he observed, that after recollecting the fate which every proposition from that side of the house had met with, he had not very sanguine hopes of success; but a determination to do his duty prevailed

over every other consideration. Mr. Grey, after asserting that the present parliament had not the confidence of the people, then added, that his attempts at several times had been of no avail, and he therefore took the opportunity of informing the house, that after that night he should no more trouble them with his attendance and observations. He concluded with moving "for leave to bring in a bill, to improve and amend the representation of the people in the House of Commons."

Mr. Pitt contended, that the modern reformers did not mean to confine themselves to any modification of the House of Commons, and the representation of the country; on the contrary, what they described by the word Reform was nothing less than an alienation of the principles of the British constitution; although they sometimes availed themselves of the topics of parliamentary reform, which they neither would apply to parliament for, nor considered parliament as competent to give. They had borrowed the principles of reform, the novel doctrines of the Rights of Man, from French proselytes, from Paine, from the jacobin and affiliated societies, and from that shallow philosophy, which, under a specious mask, had endeavored to impose on the world one of the wildest species of bigotry which had ever existed.

Mr. Fox strongly defended the motion of his friend Mr. Grey, and, like him, concluded with taking at least a temporary leave of the house. "I

have no intention," said he, " of wholly deserting my duty in this house; but since ministers have been so repeatedly convicted of failures, since parliament still continues confiding in and supporting them, notwithstanding the alarming condition of the country, I shall certainly think myself justified in giving more of my time to my own private concerns than I hitherto have done, and less of it to fruitless exertions in this house." Mr. Fox also expressed a wish to see the present ministers banished from the King's presence and councils for ever, as the most certain step to preserve the constitution: " but I have no wish," said he, " to form a part of any new administration that may succeed them." When the house divided, the motion was negatived by 256 against 91.

Thus ended the farce in England, which was repeated in the sister island, where a committee had been for some time sitting on the state of the nation.

In a few days after the report of this secret committee was read to the Irish house, Mr. Ponsonby introduced his promised motion, respecting a parliamentary reform.

That motion was negatived by 117 to 30.

" The whig members of the Irish parliament, wearied with fruitless attempts, at length seceded from that body, and left ministers and their adherents to their fate!"

In his attentions to the regular army, the King did not forget the volunteer force, so nobly enrolled,

but took every opportunity of gratifying himself by their inspection, and of encouraging them by his notice. Amongst other corps, the London Light Horse did not fail to claim his attention; and accordingly, on the twenty-sixth of June, he appointed a review of them on Wimbledon Common, where, punctual to his time, he arrived at ten o'clock, followed by the Queen and five princesses.

The troops were already in line; and His Majesty, instantly quitting his post-chaise, mounted his charger, and rode up to the ground, accompanied by the royal commander-in-chief, being joined shortly after by the Prince of Wales, and others of the royal sons. After the royal salute, the King proceeded along the lines for close inspection, and then took his station in front of the centre, when the whole corps passed by squadrons, and afterwards by single files, and also went through the sword exercise, together with all the usual evolutions, in the most correct manner.

All the military officers approved of the style in which this was conducted, and His Majesty declared his high satisfaction both at the appearance and the conduct of the corps, which he sent expressly to the colonel, by the commander-in-chief. The ground throughout the day was crowded with beauty and fashion. Every body was happy and pleased, and the whole went off in the most delightful manner.

His Majesty left the field immediately after the review, in order to meet the levee at St. James's.

It was either upon this occasion, or very shortly afterwards, at a review in Hyde Park, that His Majesty, with his usual good humour, gave a proper military rebuke to an act rather unmilitary, though strictly loyal.

The volunteers having huzzaed, the King instantly rode up to the line, smiled, and said, "I thank you for your loyalty; but we must not have rules broken through."

The effect of this was so electric, that, although the rebuke was felt, it was with the utmost difficulty that the hearers could refrain from again outraging military etiquette by renewing their cheers.

It must have been one of those occasions, of which the following anecdote is told: the narrator says, "That as the volunteer corps of the metropolis and its neighbourhood were once passing in review before the King on Wimbledon Common, the officer who carried the colours of the Croydon corps was so taken up with gazing on His Majesty, that he forgot to pay the usual compliment of lowering the colours. Some time after, His Majesty happened to be passing through a town in Kent, where a corps of volunteers were on permanent duty; and the captain's guard having turned out, in honor of His Majesty, "What corps?—what corps?" asked His Majesty. The officer

answered, "The Croydon volunteers, may it please your Majesty." "Ah! ah!" replied His Majesty, smiling, "I remember them well at Wimbledon. You came off with *flying colours* that day."

The King being anxious to visit the North Sea fleet, after Duncan's victory, left Windsor at day-break on the thirtieth of October, in his post-chaise and four, with the usual escort of light horse, and arrived at Greenwich, where he alighted at the governor's house, and was joined by his suite, by the lords of the admiralty, commissioners of the navy, and other officers. A regiment of London militia, on duty at Greenwich, were drawn out to receive him; and all the pensioners lined the way to the stairs for his embarkation, whither he proceeded, after breakfasting with Lord Hood, the governor, and his family.

At the stairs he went on board his barge, and proceeded to the Royal Charlotte yacht, commanded for the occasion by Captain Trollope: and his attendants having gone on board two other yachts, the whole got under way, but with a foul wind, and beat down the river.

The royal yacht, on this occasion, was fitted up in a very superb style. In the fore cabin was a chair and rich canopy of crimson velvet, with gold fringe, for the King to sit on; the deck was covered with carpeting; and the chairs for the noblemen who attended him were mahogany, with morocco leather seats. In the after cabin was the state bed

for His Majesty to sleep on ; and sofas covered with crimson damask in the apartments adjoining for the gentlemen in waiting. The state room was also elegantly fitted up for others of the royal suite.

In passing down the river, the usual royal salutes were fired ; but the yachts were not able, in the first tide, to get lower than Galleons' Reach, a little below Woolwich ; when the lords of the admiralty and all the suite dined and supped with the King, in the most sociable manner, His Majesty bearing his delay with great patience, and quietly retiring to rest at his usual hour of ten o'clock. The yachts weighed with the morning tide ; but it was found utterly impracticable to get lower than the Hope, below Gravesend, before low water ; and, after lying there until the evening, a council was held, when on account of the important business which required His Majesty's presence in town, it was resolved to return to London without accomplishing the object of the royal expedition.

It was not, however, without great reluctance that His Majesty came to this resolution ; for even when the roughness of the weather made it unpleasant to proceed, the King himself having actually been thrown out of his bed by the rolling of the vessel, yet he with great condescension said to Captain Trollope, " Do not consider me ; but consider, if I cannot get to the Nore, the disappointment of those brave fellows, whom I long to

thank, as I have you, for defending me, protecting my people, and preserving my country."

In the evening the signal was made to weigh, in order to return, and at eight o'clock the yachts anchored off Gravesend; starting the next morning at dawn, when they arrived off Greenwich so early, that His Majesty landed at ten o'clock, and, after again breakfasting with the Hood family, set off for town.

Immediately before leaving the yacht, the King, wishing to reward the gallantry of Captain Trollope, who had commanded the Russell in the late glorious action, conferred on him the honor of knighthood as a knight banneret. He had previously thanked him, on first introduction, in the most gracious manner, in his own name, and that of the kingdom, for his conduct.

When His Majesty first signified his intention of knighting him, Captain Trollope modestly begged leave to decline that honor; but being at length introduced by Lord Spencer, as first lord of the admiralty, the King performed the ceremony, and then bowed in the most courteous manner, saying, "Rise, Sir Henry Trollope. I wish you health and long life."

At this moment, Lieutenant Clevely, well known as a marine draftsman, and whose pictures of the morn and eve of the first of June, 1794, have been much admired, was taking some sketches from the yacht, when Lord Hugh Seymour (then

Conway) told him he must carry his drawings to the King. Lord Spencer introducing him by the name of Cleverley, His Majesty instantly exclaimed, "No! no! that's not it, my lord, though it is something like it—'tis Cleveley. I am very glad, Sir, to see you among us; and shall have great pleasure in viewing your excellent drawings. Elizabeth has shewn us some of them before."

Thus did this benevolent monarch work his way to the hearts of all his subjects, except, perhaps, a few poisoned with French principles.

The necessity of his return was evident; for on the following day, the second of November, he opened the parliament—a ceremony for which no preparation had been made to perform it by commissioners; of course his hurried return, without seeing the fleet, was imperative.

The pious heart of the venerable monarch was now filled with gratitude to the God of battles, for the victorious results of the several important naval actions under Howe, St. Vincent, and Duncan; and in order to mark that gratitude more fully to the nation, and to the world at large, he determined on a day of general thanksgiving, which took place on the nineteenth of December, when the heavens seemed to smile propitious; for never, perhaps, before that period, had there been so imposing a spectacle exhibited, with the exception of the memorable procession to St. Paul's on his recovery; whilst the remarkable beauty and clearness of the

day, the finest which had taken place for many weeks, greatly increased the splendor and brilliancy of this second procession to the cathedral of the capital; and during which the recollection of the ever memorable events that gave rise to it added in no small degree to the gaiety of the scene.

It is unnecessary to describe the military and courtly preparations for this august display of national piety and gratitude—the crowding of thousands to the metropolis—or the preparations made for the immense hosts of spectators anxious to see and to be seen.

As to His Majesty himself, his years seemed renovated: he thought of nothing else; talked of nothing else; and appeared to enjoy the preparations with all the vivacity of a school-boy.

In the morning of the day, when the Guards, and the volunteer corps, with the Westminster Light Horse, came upon duty, the latter paraded in Hyde Park, from whence they marched across Piccadilly, by Constitution Hill, in their way towards the city; and the King no sooner saw them approach, than he proceeded on foot to the Park to see them pass, expressing great satisfaction at their military appearance.

As this day was a day of naval rejoicing, the troops merely lined the streets; whilst a large body of seamen and marines formed in front of the Admiralty, in order to carry and escort the flags, ensigns,

and pendants, captured from the enemy, now about to be deposited in the national receptacle.

It is unnecessary to describe the procession, consisting of officers and seamen, the houses of parliament, the dignitaries of the church and law, and the royal family, whose suite of twenty carriages, drawn by one hundred and twenty-two horses, formed the finest equestrian sight, perhaps, ever exhibited.

His Majesty, and all the branches of the royal family, were dressed in the most appropriate magnificence, indicative of rejoicing; and the effect was very fine when he arrived at Temple Bar, where the usual civic ceremonies of delivering the keys took place.

Throughout the whole of the procession, the King appeared highly delighted; for he was throughout received with every mark of attention, respect, and applause, which his goodness of heart, and love for his people, had so well merited. Indeed, the whole assembly seemed stimulated by grateful good-humour; for particular marks of respect were also bestowed upon many others, especially Mr. Pitt, to insult whom, however, it was known that several malcontents had been stationed in different places, in hopes that their groans and hisses might lead to popular tumult.

The spectacle within the cathedral, as arranged previous to the entrance of the King, was grand in

the extreme, with the whole of the clergy and corporation in their robes, the flags supported by officers in a circle under the dome, martial music of the first order, and the branches of the royal family and their suites forming a circle round the colours, surrounded by a most brilliant display of British beauty ; in the midst of which were seen the venerated sovereign and his amiable consort, in all the splendor of regal costume, and with all the affability for which both of them were always so much distinguished.

The service now commenced ; and when the sea officers advanced past the King's chair, to deposit the trophies of national success upon the altar, His Majesty seemed to view the scene with very great attention, and with evident high feelings, in which he was manifestly joined by the whole of the assembled throng.

The royal return was conducted with all the previous splendor and decorum : every thing went off quietly ; the military behaved with exemplary forbearance, even during the hottest crush ; and not a single accident happened to cloud the festivity of the day.*

* This year died at Buckingham House, aged sixty-six, Madame Schwellenbergen, Keeper of the Robes to Her Majesty since her arrival in England. She never suspected her dissolution to be so near, although she had long laboured under the infirmities of age. On the evening of her death, in attempting to divert herself at cards, and drawing near the table for that purpose, she fell into a fit, and expired, without uttering a

1798.

The year 1798 was a most important one in the annals of Britain; and its occurrences must have pressed heavily upon the mind of His Majesty; for in this year were the unhappy Irish rebellion, and also the treasonable attempt and machinations of O'Coighley, and other traitors, respecting whom some of our leading political characters played a curious and memorable part.

The friends of public order, undismayed by the signs of the times, determined on a subscription for the exigencies of the state. His Majesty instantly set an honorable example, by subscribing twenty thousand pounds out of the privy purse. This was hailed with enthusiastic loyalty, and so rapidly followed up, that, on the thirtieth of January, the subscription at the Bank amounted near to two hundred thousand pounds.

The spirit of party, however, in unison with French politics, had now led some of the members of opposition so far astray from their duty to their

sentence. It has been commonly believed, that this lady, from her opportunities of acquiring wealth, &c. was immensely rich; it is probable, however, that her property had been greatly exaggerated. She was ever humane and liberal to the unfortunate and wretched. To the junior branches of the royal family, during their tender years, she acted with the tender solicitude and warm affection of a mother. The Queen lost in her an accomplished woman, and a very faithful servant.

king and country, that His Majesty deemed it prudent and proper to mark his displeasure at the tumultuous, not to say disloyal, proceedings now going on; and accordingly, on the twenty-fifth of May, a board of privy-council was held at St. James's, when the clerk of the council having produced the book containing the list of privy counsellors before the King, he instantly took his pen, and drew it across the name of the "Man of the People," and returned the book to the clerk, without any further observation.

This measure was evidently in consequence of a toast given by that individual at the Whig Club, a few days previous, when he said, "I'll give you a toast, than which I think there cannot be a better, according to the principles of this club: I mean the sovereignty of the people of Great Britain."

Now it must not be forgotten, that a nobleman high in rank, a very short time before, had been dismissed from all offices for giving as a toast—"Our sovereign, the people!" And though this second version was a paraphrase, its object could not be mistaken.

1799.

The peculiar friendliness and domestic kindness of the King were especially manifested at this time, on the occasion of the death of Prince Frederick, second son of the Stadtholder, who expired at

Vienna about the middle of January, 1790, from a malignant fever caught in his visits to the military hospitals, a point of duty never neglected by him, notwithstanding his high, civil, and military rank, he having entered into the Austrian service when his family were forced to fly from Holland. He was the favorite son of the Princess of Orange; and our venerable monarch was aware of the fact, and consequently much shocked when he read an account of his untimely demise in a French paper. The royal family were then in town at Buckingham House; and the King, with much feeling, communicated it privately to the Queen, who instantly approved of his suggestion of inviting the Orange family to a hasty visit, in order that he might communicate the fatal intelligence with more delicacy to the parents, than could be done through the columns of an English paper, in which they were likely first to see it on the ensuing day. The invitation was instantly sent, and accepted; and the affair most feelingly imparted by the King to the unhappy parents, who were detained as guests at the Queen's House for several weeks, and comforted by the most marked attentions of the whole royal family, until the first emotions of parental grief had abated.

The volunteering spirit was now at its height; and the King, being anxious to examine their state of discipline, arrangements were made for a grand review on his birth-day; for which purpose the

several associations of the metropolis, consisting of sixty-five well equipped corps, and amounting to upwards of eight thousand effective men, assembled in Hyde Park at half-past eight o'clock.

The day was very unfavorable, the rain falling in torrents; but the necessary dispositions were made with loyal and patriotic alacrity; and a little after nine, His Majesty, agreeable to his usual punctuality, attended by the Prince and royal dukes, a number of general officers, and a detachment of the Life Guards, appeared in the field.

His Majesty, after the royal salutes, passed along the line, and returned to a central post in front, when vollies were fired in succession; after which three loud cheers were given, all the bands of music joining in "God save the King."

The corps then passed His Majesty in succession, saluting as they passed, in grand divisions; and the review now closing with a royal salute, the King, after expressing the highest satisfaction at the martial appearance and excellent conduct of those loyal and patriotic troops, departed from the ground at one o'clock, amidst the joyous shouts and affectionate greetings of a most numerous assembly.

Some other volunteer reviews took place in this month, upon a more extended scale than in preceding years; and the King having intimated his intention of inspecting all the corps in and about the metropolis, every arrangement was made for

a grand exhibition on the twenty-first of the month.

His Majesty mounted his horse at the Queen's Palace at nine o'clock, and proceeded to Westminster Bridge, where he found the Surrey corps, to the amount of one thousand six hundred men, drawn up between the Asylum and the Obelisk; and having passed them with the usual salutes, he advanced towards Blackfriar's Bridge, at the south end of which he was received by the lord mayor, who presented him, according to custom, with the city sword, which His Majesty, as usual, returned to him most graciously. Preceded by the mayor and sheriffs, the King proceeded by Bridge Street and St. Paul's Church Yard, in both of which volunteer corps were assembled; and from thence to the Royal Exchange, India House, and Tower Hill, at all of which the usual military inspections took place. From Tower Hill the sovereign advanced to Finsbury Square, where he viewed the City Light Horse, and the Artillery Company; the latter headed by the Prince of Wales as their captain-general: from thence he visited various corps at Islington; and passing along the New Road, proceeded towards the lord chancellor's, where he was joined by the Queen and princesses, to partake of a grand collation; after which he again mounted, and advanced towards the Foundling Hospital, where he met the Tower Hamlets and Mile End

Volunteers, who had been disappointed in their expectation of inspection at Whitechapel in the morning. In the court-yard of the hospital several corps were reviewed; after which His Majesty galloped, by Mary-le-bone and Paddington, towards Hyde Park, where the review concluded; and the royal party returned to the Queen's Palace at five in the evening, followed by an immense concourse of general officers, and all the suites of the different royal branches in attendance.

It was well observed, that the metropolis of the British empire never presented a prouder or more delightful spectacle. The streets, windows, and house-tops, were every where crowded with people, all vying who should most loudly express their feelings of respect and affection for His Majesty's person; and, certainly, the venerable monarch never before experienced a day of more heartfelt gratification, if his sensations might be judged of from his countenance, which beamed forth hilarity and happiness. Many of the spectators, indeed, were equally affected, even to tears of loyal joy; especially in the chapel of the Foundling Hospital, where the children's hymn, and "God save the King," were sung before the whole of the royal family.

The King was so well pleased with the occurrences of the day, that he gave especial orders to the Duke of York to express the heartfelt satis-

faction which every part of the conduct of those patriotic troops had excited in his mind. He assured them that it was to him a source of uncommon gratification to know that the general display of loyalty and public spirit was the genuine offspring of our happy constitution, so eminently calculated to preserve the happiness and to increase the prosperity of his people.

His Majesty then assured them that he had ever made it the principal study of his life to watch over and maintain, unimpaired, those safeguards which the laws of this favored country have provided for the security of its civil and religious rights; and he was therefore the more particularly anxious, indeed eager, to embrace that opportunity of expressing the just pride he derived from the gratifying feeling that his uniform endeavours, through a long reign, to promote the happiness of his subjects, had insured to him the marked continuance of their loyalty and affection.

His Majesty also expressly directed the home secretary of state to write to the lord mayor, and to state the very great satisfaction which he felt from the dutiful and affectionate attention of the citizens of London, during the course of his progress in reviewing the different stations of the volunteers; also, that he attributed the order and regularity, every where so remarkable, not only to the good disposition of the people, but also to the

judicious regulations of the magistracy, harmonizing with the spirit of loyalty, so eminently conspicuous in the metropolis.

On the fourth of July another military exhibition took place at Wimbledon, when His Majesty reviewed several of the volunteer corps of the county of Surrey: the line, which was very extensive, consisting of twelve corps of cavalry, and twenty-four of infantry, amounting to two thousand three hundred men, commanded by the Duke of York in person, assisted by Lord Chatham, and many other officers of high military rank.

After the usual inspection, and marching salutes, the firings were conducted with great precision, which was particularly noticed and commended by His Majesty, and by all the royal dukes in his suite; and the entire scene afforded much pleasure and satisfaction to the Queen and princesses, who were on the ground during the whole of the day, and seemed particularly affected by the demonstrations of patriotism and loyalty displayed by the troops and the surrounding multitudes.

At the close of the review, the Surrey Yeomanry Cavalry went through some evolutions, which the King praised highly; and the whole royal party, with their suite, went, agreeable to invitation, to breakfast with Lord Melville, where they remained until three o'clock; and then set off to dine with the Duke of Cumberland at Kew.

The King's thanks and approbation were after-

wards transmitted in the most pointed manner to Lord Onslow, as lord-lieutenant of the county, in a style highly honorable to the monarch and to his faithful subjects.

The volunteers in general throughout the kingdom were now in a high state of discipline, so that the King felt anxious to inspect them in a large body; in consequence of which Lord Romney made preparations at his seat about one mile from Maidstone, the Mote Park, for a grand review on the tenth of August. The late Earl Grey was then commander-in-chief of the southern district, and through him orders were issued for assembling all the corps of yeoman cavalry and volunteer infantry, to the amount of five thousand five hundred men: whilst Lord Romney, at his sole expense, gave the necessary directions for the entertainment of the royal party, of a brilliant circle of nobility and gentry, and the whole of the corps to be reviewed.

The review ground was in the park: and in front of the intended line a sumptuous pavilion, decorated with flowers, was erected for the royal reception, near to which was another for the entertainment of the suite and other invited guests; and the town of Maidstone not only displayed the royal standard on the town-hall and church, but also erected a most splendid triumphal arch in honor of the day.

The royal party, King, Queen, Prince of Wales, Dukes of York, Cumberland, and Gloucester, with

the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, and the Stadtholder, came on the ground about noon; and with a happy condescension joined in the characteristic display of the day, by wearing sprigs of oak in compliment to the ancient cognizance of the men of Kent.

After the review, a levee took place, followed by a most sumptuous dinner served to the joyous and loyal party, there being, in addition to the royal family, five thousand two hundred and twenty-eight volunteers, besides several hundreds of other guests, all of whom had reason to praise the hospitable plenty of their noble entertainer.

To accommodate such a number required ninety-one tables, the sum of whose length for sitters was upwards of thirteen thousand feet, on which were placed two thousand dishes, containing sixty lambs, seven hundred fowls, three hundred hams, three hundred tongues, two hundred and twenty dishes of boiled beef, two hundred and twenty roast beef, two hundred and twenty meat pies, two hundred and twenty fruit pies, and two hundred and twenty joints of roast veal. To this we must add seven pipes of port wine, sixteen butts of ale, and sixteen of small beer. The whole supply was so ample, that considerable remains were distributed amongst the cottagers in the vicinity, besides a waggon load sent into Maidstone, for the use of the poor. Lord Romney and his family, with the utmost courtly gallantry, waited

upon the royal family, as no servants of any description were admitted into the pavilion. The King's health was drank in the park with enthusiasm; and His Majesty's warm approbation was expressed in public orders.

Lord Romney was promoted to an earldom.

Another royal excursion to Weymouth took place this year, on the seventeenth of August, the family setting off at day-break, breakfasting at Hartford-bridge, and passing through Winchester and the New Forest, being received in all parts of their route by the different volunteer corps, and hailed by the loyal acclamations of surrounding multitudes.

To detail the whole routine of land and water parties, of royal walks in public, and entertainments in private, is totally unnecessary, as we have enlarged so much on those subjects in other parts of the memoir; but we may record that the whole royal party displayed the same affability as on previous visits to that highly favored watering-place, mixing with the people at the public rooms with the utmost condescension, and enjoying their evenings at the theatre with all the good fellowship of honest John Bull.

The San Fiorenzo frigate had been appointed to attend His Majesty; and, when that ship arrived, the King walked down to the pier to receive Captain (Sir H.B.) Neale, on his coming on shore, hailing him in the most friendly and familiar way,

and congratulating him in not having received any damage when the ship took the ground a short time previous. The midshipman in the boat was the Honorable G. Poulett, whom the King knew personally, and instantly recognized him, saying, "Well, George, I am glad to see you, my lad; and am happy to find your brave comrades are all safe!"—thus making himself beloved by all who heard him.

The arrival of the frigate now afforded opportunities for several maritime excursions, the royal party often dining on board in the most familiar way; but returning on shore always in the evening, when the King made it a custom to inspect the picquet guard, and sometimes to give the countersign for the night's duty.

It was often a subject of great distress to both their majesties, that the curious crowds rushed impetuously around them, to the danger of their own personal safety, especially in regard to children; and the royal feelings were most peculiarly affected on the morning of the twenty-third, when on going to the pier head to embark for a cruize, a child was run over by a servant on horseback, and much hurt. The King entered personally into the merits of the affair, and lectured the servant with great severity; he also gave especial directions that the child should be well taken care of.

Sundays, as usual, were always devoted to a close attendance on divine worship; and the evenings

appropriated to the promenade; where the King took great pleasure in being seen by the crowds who came on that day from all parts of the country; displaying also the same affability on board ship during his various aquatic excursions, when he inspected the seamen at their meals, and often had them to dance reels before the royal party in the evenings.

Numbers of the nobility now crowded to Weymouth, much to His Majesty's satisfaction, who seemed greatly to enjoy the bustle; and, indeed, anxious to make more of it, by military inspections and reviews of the troops in the vicinity, or by aquatic cruizes, with all the pomp and ceremony of salutes, in which he took great delight.

His partiality for the navy was certainly very great: and on one occasion, in particular, he seemed to take great pride in it, when the account of the capture of La Vestale, French frigate, by the Clyde, having been brought to him at the theatre, he instantly, on receiving the despatch, stood up in the box, when, the contents being soon communicated to the audience, "Rule Britannia" was loudly called for from every part of the house, and performed with reiterated applause.

On the last day in August a grand review of the First, or Royal Dragoons, took place on Monckton-Hill, about five miles from Weymouth, whither His Majesty went, accompanied by his family, and escorted by a party of the Scotch Greys; after

which an elegant collation was served up at the barracks, and accepted by the whole of the royal party then at Weymouth, except the Princess Amelia, who was too ill yet to partake of these excursions; and of course remained at Gloucester Lodge, accompanied by the since lamented Princess Charlotte, who had arrived there a few days previous.

On the third of September, whilst the King and Princess Sophia were riding out on horseback on the Lulworth Downs, a messenger arrived from town, with the agreeable intelligence of a naval victory; but stopping only to inform Her Majesty of the news, set off, accompanied by a groom, to find the King on the road, whom he met at seven miles distance: His Majesty, however, not having the key of the despatch-box with him, was obliged to be content with a verbal account of the victory until his return, and on his way back to Weymouth was met by the Queen and princesses, who had set off in their sociables, in order to congratulate him on the important success.

After reading the despatches at the Lodge, His Majesty, with his accustomed good-humor, and no doubt with a due share of patriotic pride, walked through the streets of Weymouth, speaking to every body whom he knew, and relating all the particulars of the glad tidings. The ensuing day was appropriately spent in a nautical excursion; when every naval honor suitable to royalty, and to the happy occasion, was paid to His Majesty: and on

the return of the party in the evening, all the troops in the town and vicinity were drawn up to receive them on the sands, when a feu de joye was fired as the boats rowed along shore, in front of the line. The general rejoicings in the evening manifested every thing that loyalty or patriotism could display.

On the ninth of September a council was held, all the ministers coming from town, for the calling parliament together; and on the succeeding day a grand naval fête, consisting of a ball and dinner party, was given on board the Anson, by Captain and Lady Charlotte Durham, which the royal family honored with their presence, the princesses joining in the dance, and the King mixing in all the gaiety of the scene with his usual affability, and examining and inquiring into all the minutiæ of naval decoration, the Anson being dressed in the colors of all different nations, intermingled with wreaths of laurel and variegated flowers, so that no part of the ship could be seen but the deck. The fineness of the day contributed greatly to the grandeur of the spectacle, as it drew forth great numbers of the gentry in pleasure-boats on the water, who kept sailing round the frigate all the time their majesties were on board.

Sundry reviews took place in the ensuing week, with visits to various gentlemen's seats in the vicinity, the evenings being passed either at the theatre or at the rooms, where His Majesty seemed even

to enjoy himself as a private individual; whilst the royal party was now enlivened by a visit from the Prince of Wales, who had come down to see his parents, and to ascertain, himself, the improving health of his interesting child.

Public worship was also regularly attended on Sundays; whilst the other mornings were diversified by shopping parties: but, on the twenty-third of September, some urgent political business calling His Majesty to town, he set off after the play in his travelling coach, accompanied by Earl Poulett and General Garth, leaving the Queen and princesses until the twenty-seventh, when he returned at half-past seven in the morning, having travelled through a most tempestuous night, indeed, through a perfect hurricane, accompanied by thunder and lightning, and a heavy rain, which rendered it almost impossible for the servants to urge the horses forward. The night, too, was intensely dark; and the lamps of the carriage being blown out, it was with some difficulty that they reached Woodyate's inn for a temporary shelter.

Notwithstanding his fatigue, His Majesty mounted his horse immediately after breakfast, and joined a hunting party, with the Rev. Mr. Pickard's harriers.

Another review of the Somersetshire Militia took place on the second of October; and of the Shropshire two days afterwards; the royal family on each occasion partaking of military refreshments with

the utmost ease and affability, free from all form, or even etiquette, and joining in all the hilarity of the scene.

Some days afterwards, the effects of this royal condescension were seen, when the two militia regiments were drawn up in front of the Esplanade, where His Majesty inspected them ; after which, the act of parliament, respecting volunteering for foreign service, was read to them, and a number, both of officers and men, stepped forward to enrol themselves for more active exertions in the cause of their king and country. The King himself took great interest in the scene ; and particularly desired that two of the tallest volunteers from the Shropshire should enter the Coldstream, or Second Regiment of Foot Guards.

On Sunday, the thirteenth of October, the whole royal party went to Stacie's rooms, where they took leave of the nobility and gentry, previous to their intended departure ; and early the next morning they set off for Windsor : the men of war sailed on different services; the troops broke up camp ; and Weymouth was deserted.

1800.

The year 1800 presented many interesting occurrences.

On the morning of the fifteenth of May, 1800, His Majesty presided at a field-day of the grenadier

battalion of Foot Guards in Hyde Park. Whilst the troops were firing in companies, a musket-ball wounded one of the spectators, a gentleman in the Navy Office, in the thigh. At the time when this unfortunate event took place, Mr. Ongley was posted almost in a direct line, and within a few paces of the King, who was an eye-witness of the transaction. With his accustomed affability and condescension, His Majesty testified his sympathy at the occurrence, and instantly directed that the wounded gentleman should be taken care of by one of the surgeons of the regiment. On examination, it appeared that it was merely a flesh wound, the bone being unhurt, and a speedy cure was prognosticated.

All this was the work of a moment: and the King, so far from testifying any symptoms of personal apprehension, actually kept the ground nearly an hour longer, during which four vollies were fired, His Majesty still remaining in front of the line, and attributing the misfortune of Mr. Ongley solely to an accident, though, from the direction of the ball, it was strongly suspected by many that the circumstance must have been intentional.

Previous to the accident, a play had been bespoke by the royal family at Drury-Lane (She would and She would not, with the Humorist); and the King, in spite of representation or remonstrance, boldly declared that he feared nothing; that he would not disappoint his good people; and

accordingly he accompanied the Queen to the house in his usual manner; but the instant he entered the state box, and whilst in the very act of bowing to the audience in courteous acknowledgment of their loyal and now reiterated plaudits, for the morning occurrence had spread like wildfire, an unhappy man in the pit, whilst every eye was directed to the royal visitor, deliberately levelled a horse-pistol, and discharged it at His Majesty.

This was, in fact, the work of a moment, for the Queen and princesses were just stepping into the box when the pistol was fired. The alarm was instantaneous; but the King, with the most admirable presence of mind, immediately turned round to the Queen, and even anticipated her inquiries, by observing that the explosion was merely a squib, which some of the audience had inconsiderately fired off for their diversion—adding, "*perhaps there may be another*," yet without the smallest alteration of voice or feature, which might have tended to confirm the apprehensions of his august family, or to aggravate their terror. This care on his part, however, was soon unavailing; as the uncontrolable ebullitions of rage and virtuous indignation manifested by the audience soon put the fact beyond a doubt. The scene now became terrific; yet, although all was uproar and confusion, the assassin did not escape, but was instantly seized, and conveyed to the music-room of the theatre, where he underwent an immediate examination, for the pur-

pose of public satisfaction. Mr. Sheridan and Mr. Richardson, the two proprietors, were on the spot; and, being both in the commission of the peace, as well as members of parliament, assisted at the examination, at which were present also the Prince of Wales, Duke of York, and many persons of rank and distinction. On closing the examination, the culprit was conducted, under an escort of soldiery, to the House of Correction, to await the further investigation by the privy council.

In the mean time, the King was strongly urged to withdraw; but this he refused, judging that if he had done so, the scene of confusion which would inevitably have ensued, must not only have endangered the property of the theatre, but the lives of many, who would undoubtedly have fallen a sacrifice to the unavoidable press at every door and avenue of the house: nor did he quit it before the audience, struck with a sense of gratitude and loyalty, manifested the most marked professions of admiration and attachment, by singing the patriotic hymn of "God save the King," three times successively, with the addition of a new stanza, happily thought of for the occasion, and which had been written and sung at Quebec, in reference to the attack made on His Majesty, fourteen years before this period.

The intelligence of this event flew over the kingdom with unexampled rapidity, and the best feelings

were manifested in numerous addresses from every quarter. The first levee that took place was the most brilliant and the most numerously attended that had ever been witnessed—all parties were present; and it seemed the meeting of one great family. When Mr. Sheridan arrived, he was particularly noticed by His Majesty, who expressed to him the extreme satisfaction he felt for the quiet demeanor of the audience, their stopping in the house after the first ebullition of public resentment had subsided, and their manifestations of personal regard to himself. Mr. Sheridan, with all the grace of a courtier, and indeed with great truth and propriety, instantly attributed this to the noble example of fortitude and magnanimity which the sovereign himself had displayed, expatiating at the same time upon the ruin and dsetruction, the loss of lives, and general scene of havoc, which must inevitably have ensued, if the King had quitted the box, and suspended the performances—to which the King replied—"No doubt that would have been the case; but (in a firm and dignified tone) I should have despised myself for ever, had I but stirred a single inch. A man on such an occasion should need no prompting; but immediately feel what is his duty."

It is worthy of record also, that when His Majesty took leave of his family for the night, he calmly said—"I am going to bed with a confidence

that I shall sleep soundly; and my prayer is that the poor unhappy prisoner, who aimed at my life, may rest as quietly as I shall."

With respect to the assassin, it may be proper to add, that in first dragging him over the rail of the orchestra, his surtout flew back, and displayed a military waistcoat, with some other indications of his belonging to the army. This seemed so connected with the occurrence of the morning in Hyde Park, that the two events, in the minds of the public, were instantly coupled together, and this last attempt considered but as a repetition of that which had previously failed: a supposition much strengthened by His Majesty's own expression—that perhaps there might be another shot. This supposition, however, was soon set aside by a military inquiry that took place, by order of the Duke of York, as commander-in-chief, when it appeared that five years previous blue cartridge paper had been delivered to the first regiment of Guards, for ball cartridge; but a quantity of these, not expended, had been deposited in the magazine of the regiment, in consequence of paper of that colour having since been devoted exclusively to blank cartridges. It was judged therefore that the ball cartridge had slipped in by accident, especially as, on investigation, seven others were found amongst the blank cartridges in the regimental depôt. This was considered as proving the first occurrence to be solely an acci-

dent; to guard against the recurrence of which, all the blue ball cartridges were ordered to be returned into the ordnance store, accompanied by a regulation that blue paper should be thenceforth used exclusively throughout the service for the blank cartridges.

Further examination of the culprit proved that his name was Hatfield, originally bred a silversmith, afterwards in the army, from which he had been discharged three years previous, on account of insanity, but admitted an out-pensioner of Chelsea Hospital. It was ascertained that he had always when in the ranks been remarkable for his loyalty, as well as gallantry, having been severely wounded at Lincelles, particularly from a sabre cut on the head; since which he had associated with the lowest classes of fanatics. On the twenty-sixth of June he was tried for high treason, acquitted on account of lunacy, and finally confined in Bedlam.

Another grand review of the metropolitan volunteer corps, to the amount of twelve thousand, took place on the royal birth-day, His Majesty then entering his sixty-third year. The crowds were immense, notwithstanding the torrents of rain which fell the whole time, during which the King continued without even a great coat, equally exposed as his subjects; and the only observable difference, from his usual conduct on similar occasions, was that he did not keep his hat quite so long off as in fine weather.

He patiently waited, however, through the whole scene, which lasted eight hours, and expressed himself highly satisfied with the precision of the evolutions, under circumstances of such an untoward nature, especially with regard to the firings, which would have been creditable to veteran troops.

On the second of July, His Majesty gave the royal assent to the Union; and intending shortly to pay his annual visit to Weymouth, preparations, both domestic and political, were speedily put in train. On the twenty-ninth of July, with his usual perseverance when engaged in business, he rode on horseback at an early hour from Windsor to Kingsbeech Hill, to review a select body of troops, after which he set off for town, arriving at St. James's at half-past one, where a council was held, and the speech read for the prorogation of parliament; then, having signed no less than thirty-seven different bills, he went in state to the House of Lords, and put an end to the session, thanking the legislature for their diligence and perseverance; congratulating them on the Union of the empire, which he described as a measure on which his wishes had long been fixed, as best calculated to bestow all the blessings of the British constitution on the sister island; and still holding out hopes of eventual general tranquillity upon honorable terms.

It was about this period that the new First Consul of France thought proper to write his imperti-

nent epistle to His Majesty, as remarkable for its rudeness as for its departure from all the acknowledged forms of international civility. It was treated with much more attention than it deserved, in having an official answer transmitted by Lord Grenville to Talleyrand, exculpating the British monarch and nation from the insolent and false insinuations of the revolutionary upstart.

The King, though despising an usurper, seems always to have felt much for the unhappy descendants of James the Second; and about this period, the Cardinal York, sometimes assuming the empty title of Henry the Ninth, and then the only remaining branch of the regal Stuart line, having been completely deprived of all his property by the ravages of the French in Italy, His Majesty instantly settled an annuity of four thousand pounds per annum, out of the privy purse, upon that venerable character, for which he was most gratefully thanked through the medium of Sir John Coxe Hippesley, who had taken an active part in recommending the misfortunes of his eminence to the protection of the British monarch. In his attention to politics, His Majesty did not neglect the arts and sciences; and this year he condescended to become patron of the Royal Institution, recently incorporated.

The projected excursion to Weymouth took place on the thirtieth of July. His Majesty was delighted with the improvements which had taken place at

Weymouth since his visit on the preceding year, and had no sooner breakfasted than he set off on foot to investigate them with his customary eagerness and accuracy. In the evening, also, he walked out to enjoy the illuminations and fire-works exhibited in honor of the royal arrival, accompanied by a private gentleman, with whom he conversed in the most familiar manner, and indeed showed himself in all things quite at home.

During this residence at Weymouth His Majesty was generally accompanied in his pedestrian excursions, which were very frequent, by the Duke of Cumberland.

A remarkable circumstance took place on the Esplanade, whilst the royal party walked there, on the second of August, when they were met by three quakers recently arrived, who accosted the King, saying, that a young friend of theirs, who had lately come from Philadelphia, had a strong desire to see the King and his family. His Majesty cheerfully desired that the young American should come forward, who was introduced, and held some conversation with the King, still keeping his hat on, but suddenly pulling it off, he retired to a short distance, and offered up a long prayer to God for His Majesty and his house, and thanksgiving for his escape from the late attempt against his life; concluding his devotions with great fervency in a supplication that the Almighty would bless him, and continue him long to be the father of the little

island, and the happiness of his people. The whole scene was most impressive, and was most strongly felt by the Queen and princesses.

His Majesty during this visit kept very early hours, often bathing at six in the morning; which had the happiest effect upon his health and spirits, and always afforded him full leisure for his equestrian and aquatic excursions. He also derived much satisfaction from the company of his grand-daughter, who arrived on the eleventh of August, whilst he was walking on the Esplanade, when he ordered her carriage to stop, that he might welcome her, and seemed proud to shew her to the surrounding multitude; and the next day being the birth-day of her august parent, the whole party spent it on board the Cambrian frigate, then in attendance, when Captain and Lady C. Durham entertained them in a familiar style, without etiquette; her ladyship after dinner singing a number of the most favorite airs, and accompanying herself on the piano-forte, with which His Majesty was highly delighted. Returning on shore in the evening, a hasty gala was got up at the Lodge, in honor of the day, to which all the resident nobility and gentry were invited.

The Duke of York's birth-day, four days afterwards, was also celebrated by the military and the public in a manner which gave His Majesty great pleasure.

Some German hussars being encamped in the vicinity, the whole of the royal party set off on the

second of September, accompanied by the Prince of Wales and Duke of Cumberland, in order to inspect them; and remained in the camp some time, highly amused with their singing, which was executed in the best German style; after which, on their return, they were agreeably surprised by the arrival of the Duke of Gloucester, and his amiable sister, the Princess Sophia, who took up their abode with their majesties. Indeed, at this moment the royal family formed a complete domestic circle; affording a high example to the country at large; and in themselves feeling their happiness much increased by the sprightly sallies of the infant princess, who was now become so much attached to her royal grandfather, that she was never so happy as when walking with him, and her little favorite, Lady Catharine Poulett.

On the sixth of September the royal party set off for the island of Portland, to take their annual dinner at the Portland Arms. They were accompanied by a select party; and as soon as they arrived at the island, were saluted by the castle. The royal party then proceeded to the church, and afterwards to the light-house, where they stopped some time to contemplate a large fleet of shipping then passing by. From thence they went to examine a piece of land purchased by Mr. Penn, in which the King took some interest; and also the quarries, where several poor children presented the

Queen with some very curious shells; who, in return, displayed her generosity by more valuable gifts.

The whole day was spent in festive and familiar harmony, considerably heightened by its being the thirty-eighth anniversary of their majesties' nuptials; on which they and the whole royal party were complimented upon their appearance in the evening at the theatre, by all the nobility and gentry, who thronged round them, anxious to offer their congratulations.

Many anecdotes are told of the King's easy and witty familiarity during this visit. One day, whilst riding out to some races, he saw a most respected nobleman approach, when he instantly exclaimed, "There comes a man who is neither *gambler* nor rat."—"Your Majesty is mistaken," said the nobleman: "I am the greatest gambler on earth! my *all* is on *that* horse,"—pointing to that which the monarch rode.

The remainder of their visit was fully occupied in reviews, country excursions, naval trips, &c. &c.

On the fifth of October His Majesty gave audience to the sheriffs and remembrancer, respecting the address of the livery, on the high price of provisions; and on the eighth of October the whole party returned to Windsor.

On the third of October a common-hall was held, when it was resolved to petition the King to call

parliament together, to consider the high price of provisions; which was presented by the lord mayor and corporation on the sixteenth, His Majesty being on the throne.

His answer was, that he was always desirous of the advice of parliament on any public emergency; and that, previous to the petition, he had given directions for convening the legislature.

SECTION VII.

1801—1810.

Act of Union.—Royal Recovery and Birth-day.—Visit to Weymouth.—Peace of Amiens.—Anecdotes, Military and Literary.—Chivalric Installations.—Characteristic Anecdotes, &c. &c. &c.

THOUGH the act of union had passed in 1800, yet the precise forms were not gone through until the third of January, 1801, when all the members of the privy council took the oaths for the united kingdom; on which occasion His Majesty received the great seal from the lord chancellor; and, causing it to be defaced, presented to him a new great seal for the empire.

After this ceremony, a proclamation was prepared for the change of the royal style, titles, &c. &c.; and shortly afterwards some steps were taken towards the fulfilment of hopes held out to the Catholics of Ireland, during the progress of the Union—steps, which the political history of that time declares to have led to the resignation of Mr. Pitt on the fourteenth of March.

On this subject, however, the King was resolute. He felt, as a Protestant monarch, called to the throne of these kingdoms, through his ancestors,

to protect Britain from Popish thraldom, and religious slavery. Indeed, the attempt made upon the proposed question of Catholic emancipation, to induce the King to depart from the spirit of his coronation oath, manifested how strongly he felt that obligation. In fact, it was always strong upon his mind; and, on this occasion, he resisted the united arguments even of Mr. Pitt, as it is said, and four other cabinet ministers.

The public interest was much excited at this moment, by an alarming illness of His Majesty, in consequence of his catching a severe cold whilst attending divine service at the chapel royal on the fast-day. It was soon accompanied by the most affecting symptoms; and the circumstances connected with it occasioned a very extraordinary pause in the progress of the pending ministerial arrangements.

During the period of his illness another unhappy maniac produced considerable disturbance at the Queen's Palace, by forcibly attempting to enter that mansion on the twenty-second of January. On being asked his business, he replied that he had written a note to the princesses, promising to accompany them to the play that evening, and he came to know why he received no answer.

On examination, it appeared that the unfortunate man, by name Palmer Hurst, had formerly possessed considerable property at Walton-upon-Thames.

His Majesty's illness still continued through February, and baffled, for some weeks, all the skill of his medical attendants. His great complaint was a constant feverish restlessness, which precluded all sleep; and it is a remarkable fact, that he remained in that state, without hope, until Mr. Addington recommended a pillow of hops, which contributed instantly to the abatement of the fever, and induced sleep, when all other soporifics had failed.

Though the royal birth-day, in 1801, was not observed with the customary state, yet His Majesty was sufficiently recovered to attend at St. James's, where he received the congratulations of the foreign ministers, and of a great number of the nobility: after which he returned to the Queen's Palace, where he held a council, attended by all the members of the cabinet.

A few days afterwards the royal family retired to Kew, when preparations began to be made for another journey to Weymouth, where the King had purchased the former residence of the Duke of Gloucester, intending to make considerable improvements in it during the summer.

This Weymouth trip was considered necessary for the complete re-establishment of the royal health, in which His Majesty was daily improving, in consequence of the judicious arrangements now adopted. His hour of rising was seven o'clock, from which he seldom deviated many minutes. The time from

seven to eight he walked in Richmond Gardens, to observe the progress of the workmen, in building the new palace.

At eight, the whole royal family, accompanied by his lovely grand-daughter, sat down to a sociable breakfast; after which the King usually rode out on horseback, accompanied by Prince Adolphus, who then resided in a plain manner in a neat house on the green; whilst the Duke of Kent accompanied the Queen and princesses in short excursions in their landau.

Four o'clock was the established hour of dining, from which the King never deviated; when the fare was of the simplest kind, such as roast mutton, lamb, veal, beef, and fowl, generally cold, with salads; but made dishes, or French cookery, never admitted.

His Majesty's beverage was wine, considerably diluted with water, which he never exceeded. In the evening His Majesty generally made excursions of seven or eight miles in a phaeton, whilst the Queen and princesses resumed their rides in the vicinity.

On Sunday, the twenty-eighth of June, the whole royal family were assembled at Kew to divine worship; after which, the Prince of Wales, the Duke and Duchess of York, and the rest of the royal brothers, paid their parting compliments, previous to the journey to Weymouth; from which His

Majesty wa not intimidated by all the boastings of invasion from the minions of the First Consul.

In the course of the summer, negotiations for peace commenced; and, in September, preliminaries were signed.

With respect to the secret history of this peace, we profess not to divulge any important secrets; but it has been said that the King himself considered peace at that period with France as impolitic, unsafe, and unwise; and the biographical baronet, before quoted, expressly asserts "that Lord Hawksbury affixed his signature to the articles, not only without the King's consent or approbation, but without his knowledge." This assertion, however, we presume, must be considered, not as meaning that Lord Hawksbury could venture to affix his signature contrary to the King's orders, or intentions, but that his Majesty, anxious to meet the wishes of his people, who were then taught to look on a peace as the greatest of all possible blessings, so far acquiesced in public opinion, as not to refuse the trial of an experiment which he still thought a dangerous one.

An anecdote has been told respecting these preliminaries, which is deserving of notice. It states that they were signed in town by the secretary of state, without an express order of the King, on the tenth of October, whilst His Majesty was on the point of setting off from Weymouth to return to

Windsor; and he had reached Andover on his way, when he was met by a messenger, despatched by the cabinet, to announce the fact.

The despatches were delivered to him whilst standing in conversation at the window of the inn, conversing with the Earl of Cardigan and two other noblemen, whom he desired to remain whilst he read the note, observing them preparing to quit the apartment. He is stated to have then opened the letter, and to have betrayed so much surprise, both by look and gesture, that they again prepared to quit the apartment, when he advanced towards them, saying, "I have received surprising news, but it is no secret. Preliminaries of peace are signed with France. I knew nothing of it whatever; but since it is made, I sincerely wish it may prove lasting."

For the truth of these statements we cannot vouch; but we feel great pleasure in recording the closing expressions of His Majesty's speech in regard to that peace, on the twenty-ninth of October; when he said, "It is my first wish, and most ardent prayer, that my people may experience the reward they have so well merited, in a full enjoyment of the blessings of peace, in a progressive increase of the national commerce, credit, and resources; and, above all, in the undisturbed possession of their religion, laws, and liberties, under the safeguard and protection of that constitution, which it has been the great object of all our efforts to pre-

serve, and which it is our most sacred duty to transmit unimpaired to our descendants."

1802.

It was only as a mark of high favor that the King ever stood sponsor in person for the child of a subject; of course we may briefly notice the etiquette which took place on an occasion of this kind at the baptism of the infant daughter of the Earl of Chesterfield, on the second of April, 1802, when their majesties and the Princess Elizabeth performed that office. The ceremonial was for the Marchioness Dowager of Bath, who presided as chief nurse, to present the child into the hands of the Queen, who again gave it to the Bishop of Norwich, the officiating clergyman.

After the baptism, a cup of caudle was presented by the earl, on one knee, to His Majesty, on a large gold waiter, placed on a crimson velvet cushion; this waiter having originally been a present to the Stanhope family from the King of Spain, and of great value.

During the royal visit, which lasted two hours, the lady in the straw sat on a superb bed, dressed in white satin, with a profusion of lace; the bed being of crimson satin lined with white, with a counterpane of white satin, embroidered with gold.

In February, March, and April, parliament were deeply engaged in the affairs of the civil list, and in the claims of his Royal Highness the Prince of

Wales to the arrears of the Duchy of Cornwall during his minority; but the question was set at rest by a legislative decision.

As the arrangements for the island of Malta seemed to form the principal object of the treaty of peace; and its possession by us, until these arrangements could be fulfilled, was always brought forward by NAPOLEON as a serious infringement of that treaty; it is the more interesting to notice a circumstance which took place on the eleventh of April, connected with that island.

As the King was coming out of church at Windsor, he was met by several Maltese gentlemen, who had been waiting for some time to see His Majesty, who was attended solely by Lord Morton. The King conversed a long time with these gentlemen; and as they were said to be literally ambassadors from that state, considerable surprise was excited at their not being admitted to a formal court audience. Indeed, it was even said that ministers had adopted this mode of introduction to avoid giving offence to Buonaparte—if so, it is a pretty convincing proof of the degradation to which this country must have submitted, in order to preserve peace with France, whilst that upstart sat on her throne. Yet such was the condition to which would-be patriots, by their clamors for peace, would have reduced this happy and not yet dishonored empire.

It is a remarkable fact, that nothing of importance could happen throughout the empire without

His Majesty becoming immediately acquainted with it, and often shewing his knowledge of it in a manner little expected. An instance of this took place in the present year, in the case of Dr. Vincent, who had recently resigned the head mastership of Westminster School, on being appointed to a prebendary stall in the Abbey. Dr. Vincent, at the period in question, had published a pamphlet in opposition to, and confutation of, a sermon preached by Dr. Lewis O'Beirne, Bishop of Meath, at the anniversary of the charity children at St. Paul's, in which it was asserted, that religion made none, or very little part in the education of youth in the public seminaries of this kingdom. This was considered as a most able performance, perhaps unanswerable, for it certainly was not followed by any reply: and it was generally believed that it had made a great impression in the highest quarter; for Dr. Vincent having, shortly afterwards, gone into the country for the recovery of his health, he was there most agreeably surprised by a letter from Lord Sidmouth, announcing that His Majesty had been graciously pleased to nominate him to the Deanery of Westminster, "as a public reward for public services." That this promotion, therefore, must have been of His Majesty's own free will is evident; for it is certain that no solicitation whatever had been made on the part of the doctor's friends, although he afterwards confessed that it was particularly pleasing to him, inasmuch as it

removed him from none of his connexions, and suffered him to pass the evening of his days in society to which he was accustomed; nay, that if the King had given him his choice where to fix his preferment, he would have asked for that deanery; he therefore received this mark of his sovereign's favor with the utmost gratitude, enhanced as it was in value by the manner in which it had been bestowed, even although not coupled with the mitre of Rochester, to which it had formerly been joined.

This separation of the bishopric from the deanery, or rather of the deanery from a poor bishopric, was not however intended to be final, even with regard to Dr. Vincent; for that learned divine, having shortly afterwards gone down to reside near Windsor Forest, the King heard of it, though only a summer trip, and with great condescension paid a visit to the dean, and spoke to him confidentially of the separation; adding also, that it had been done much to his regret. This naturally drew from the dean not only fresh expressions of gratitude, but also of perfect content with the arrangement. But His Majesty interrupted him, saying, "If you are satisfied, Mr. Dean, I am not. The See of Rochester shall be united again with your deanery, in your person, the first opportunity." In this, however, His Majesty's intentions were afterwards frustrated, as the promotion of the Bishop to Ely, instead of giving the mitre to Dean

Vincent, placed it on the head of another; a convincing proof that a King has sometimes less power than a minister.

In consequence of the early return of the royal family from Weymouth, on the first day of September, the town and vicinity of Windsor were unusually cheerful during the whole of the month.

The King, Queen, and princesses, promenaded upon the terrace in public every evening, which spot of course became a source of attraction, not only to the neighbouring nobility and gentry, but also to many visitors from the metropolis.

The private life of the King at this period deserves particular notice; we may therefore record that he was, as always, an early riser, and a constant attendant every day at eight o'clock on divine service, which was generally performed in the King's Chapel in the upper court. Except on the days when state affairs called him to London, he generally rode out until dinner, in the great park, to his farm, accompanied by some of the princesses on horseback, or in their sociable, during which he never omitted an opportunity of conversing with such of his subjects as were previously known to him. On one of these occasions, he walked down to the stables; and whilst mounting his horse, entered into conversation with a well known auctioneer of Windsor, who had been employed to sell the Merino sheep, which His Majesty, as detailed in another place, had taken that means of dissemi-

nating amongst his agricultural subjects, judiciously supposing that they would affix a greater value to them if bought, than if given to them. "Any one may take a sheep, if given, and neglect it," said His Majesty; "but nobody will buy one who does not mean to take care of it." A house belonging to the auctioneer, which adjoined the royal stables, but had been burnt down, was now rebuilding; and the owner being on the spot, the King observed to him, that it would be a better house if the wall were carried a few feet further; to which the auctioneer replied, that if so, he must trespass on His Majesty's own property: but the King turned quickly round, and generously exclaimed,—"What! do you think I am a bad neighbour? Take it—take it!"—and instantly mounting his horse, rode off to join his party.

Nor was his general consideration for those employed by him less conspicuous than his affability and kindness, as manifested by an anecdote related of the late ingenious Mr. Ramsden, who, having been dilatory in the preparation of an optical instrument for the royal use, sent word to Buckingham House when it was completed, instead of carrying it himself, as he had been accustomed. But the King instantly desired that Ramsden himself should bring it; a message which the latter begged to decline complying with, unless His Majesty would promise not to be angry with him for his

want of punctuality. This was no sooner reported to the amiable monarch, then he exclaimed, "Well, well, let him come; it would be cruel to reprove him for a fault of which he is conscious."

When Ramsden brought home the instrument, the King, who was perfectly qualified to judge of these matters, not only in mechanics but in other branches of philosophical experiment, immediately expressed his approbation of the accuracy and elegance with which it was executed: keeping strictly to his promise of not being angry, but at the same time saying, with a good-natured smile, "You have been uncommonly punctual this time, Mr. Ramsden, having brought home the instrument on the very day of the month you promised it; but you have made a small mistake in the date of the year." In short, the worthy, though not very punctual artist, was just one year behind the stipulated time.

When those sheets were first in the press, the public prints were teeming with anecdotes of the same nature, out of which we may select two in reference to persons even in the humblest sphere of life. It is related, that the King, some years back, walking unattended round his farm, observed a clownish boy lounging over a gate, which he was in no hurry to open to the royal pedestrian. The King, in his customary abrupt but kind manner, asked, "Well, boy, who are you?" "I be a pig boy," replied the

ill-mannered urchin. "Who do you work for?" "I has no work at present: they won't employ me." "Why not?" asked the monarch. "Because all the land about here belongs to *Georgy*, and they don't want I." "Georgy! Georgy! who is Georgy?" demanded His Majesty. "Whoy, he be King, and lives up at castle there, but does no good for I." The humane and considerate monarch, amused with the boy's simplicity, and feeling for his situation, instantly gave him a memorandum for his farming bailiff, which procured him employment, and taught him better to appreciate the merits of "Georgy."

One other anecdote of the same nature shall close. It is well known, that whilst His Majesty was in good health, it was his constant custom, when at Windsor, to pay an early visit to his Mews, if not to mount, to look at and pat his favorite horses. One morning, on entering, the grooms were disputing one with the other very loudly, so that the King for a short time was unnoticed. "I don't care what you say, Robert," said one, "but every one else agrees that the man at the Three Tuns makes the best Purl in Windsor." "Purl, purl," said the King, quickly. "Robert, what's purl?" This was explained to be warm beer, with a glass of gin, &c. His Majesty listened attentively, and then turning round, said, loud enough to be heard by all, in the way of admonishing, "I dare say very good drink; but, grooms, too strong for the

morning ; never drink in a morning." Eight or nine years after this, His Majesty happened to enter the stables much earlier than usual, and found only a young lad, who had recently been engaged, and to whom the King was unknown. " Boy, boy," said he, " where are the grooms ; where are the grooms ?" " I don't know, Sir ; but they will soon be back, because they expect the King." " Ah, ah," said he, " then run, boy, and say the King expects them ; run boy to the Three Tuns ; they are sure to be there, for the landlord makes the best purl in Windsor."

At half past four the King dined upon plain beef or mutton, hot or cold, as the dinner never waited, and at a quarter past six he made his appearance upon the terrace, accompanied, as already stated, and sometimes by one or two of the princes ; and here he promenaded for an hour, occasionally stopping and chatting with those persons of whom he had any knowledge. Notwithstanding the ceremony of numerous guards in London, agreeable to courtly customs, His Majesty was always unguarded at Windsor ; and he then appeared to give to his subjects full and liberal credit for that degree of loyalty which a king, who is governed by the laws of the land, has a right to experience.

It was remarked at that time, that there was nothing different in his appearance on foot from what it was before the revolutionary war, except the attendance of two police officers, who paced

at a short distance from his person, one before and the other behind him, and who kept back, at a suitable distance, all persons that appeared to entertain an intention of direct intrusion.

The King at this time particularly indulged himself in his well-founded partiality for Gothic architecture, and occupied himself sedulously in rendering the state of that magnificent castle more uniform, by altering several of the windows, and rebuilding a new and very tasteful entrance into the state apartments.

Under his directions, St. George's Chapel was now rendered, by various embellishments, one of the most beautiful places for divine worship in Christendom. In short, as it was then well observed, to British subjects, and even to foreigners, Windsor was become in all respects a most agreeable place for a visit, or even a short residence; the castle, the terrace, the royal family, and the surrounding scenery, being objects which could not fail to gratify every variety of taste both in the picturesque, and in loyal politics.

Considerable advance had also taken place in the reparation of Wolsey's tomb-house, as a royal mausoleum; and other repairs were rapidly going on in the improvement of the whole of that superb castle.*

* It was not St. George's Chapel, as stated by Grose, that James the Second made use of for celebration of mass, but the

It is a remarkable fact, that His Majesty should have lived to see three generations of his descend-

small chapel in the castle; the former being left undisturbed for the dean and chapter.

Of this grand gothic structure the following extract from a most esteemed architectural writer cannot fail to be interesting at this moment.

"The collegiate chapel of St. George, at Windsor, is the largest in dimensions, the most chaste and elegant in architectural style and character, and the most diversified in external and internal arrangement, of the three royal chapels in England. The foundation and building of the present chapel have been commonly attributed to King Edward the Fourth; though all writers agree that Edward the Third founded the college, endowed it liberally, was the greater part of his life employed in building and enlarging the castle, and finally, that he 'caused the former chapels to be taken down, and one more large and stately to be erected.' King Henry the First is said to have erected the original chapel within the precincts of Windsor Castle, for eight canons, and to have dedicated it to King Edward the Confessor. This was afterwards either rebuilt, or enlarged, by Henry the Third. Sir Reginald Bray, prime minister to King Henry the Seventh, and one of the knights companions of the Order of the Garter, was appointed master and surveyor of the works. That the chapel of St. George, at Windsor, owes much to the skill, as well as to the munificence of Sir Reginald Bray, there can be no doubt. It is stated that the roof or groined ceiling of the choir was not begun till the twenty-first year of Henry the Seventh's reign; when John Hylmer and William Vertue, freemasons, agreed by indenture, dated June the fifth, A.D. one thousand five hundred and seven, (after Sir Reginald Bray's death) to construct that part of the vaulting for the sum of seven hundred pounds, and to complete it by Christmas next, one thousand five hundred

ants buried in this tomb—his daughter Amelia, Princess Charlotte, and her infant!!!

and eight. The fitting up and decorations of the stalls, &c. in the choir, were chiefly accomplished during Henry the Eighth's reign; and it is conjectured that the whole masonry of the edifice, with the roof, side-chapel, and interior embellishments, were left either wholly or nearly finished at the time of that monarch's decease. Several alterations and dilapidations have subsequently taken place; and hence, though the architecture apparently displays its original form, style, and dressings, yet much of it is modern. Great reparations and restorations have been made during the reign of King George the Third, who evinced his good sense and good taste in particularly commanding the architect to imitate in all the new work the ancient and proper models to be found in the original parts of the building. For this fact I am indebted to the present worthy Bishop of Salisbury, who was one of the canons of Windsor at the time these plans were effected. His lordship also states, that the King contributed from his own private purse more than fifteen thousand pounds towards defraying the expenses; that the Knights of the Garter paid their quota; and that the dean and chapter advanced five thousand pounds more. The alterations and additions then made, under the direction of Mr. Emlyn, were the following:—A new altar, which consists of a wooden screen, elaborately carved and adorned with the arms of Edward the Third, Edward the Black Prince, and all the first Knights of the Garter, arranged in two circular compartments. The arms of His Majesty, the Prince of Wales, and those Knights of the Garter who contributed towards the expense of the great eastern window, were painted in glass, by Eginton, of Birmingham, and are placed in the north and south windows of the choir. In the centre is a very fine picture by West, of the Last Supper. A new organ, built by Mr. Green, cost one thousand pounds: it is enclosed in a case, which, in its general design and detail, corres-

This year, the King feeling that Kew House was so small as only to be fit for an occasional retirement, caused it to be in part taken down, when the pictures were removed to the other house on the opposite side of the green; and about the same time a new palace was begun within Richmond Gardens, a little to the west of Kew Green. This palace, of the castellated form, and so conspicuous from Brentford, remained unfinished in consequence of His Majesty's unhappy illness.

We have seen it stated, in reference to an anecdote of the much lamented Princess Charlotte, that in the course of this year, a dignitary of the church, preaching before His Majesty, quoted a passage (on the government of the passions, we believe), with which the royal hearer was particularly pleased, and afterwards requested to know the name of the author quoted. This was given; and

ponds and harmonizes with the elaborate stalls in the choir. It is placed on a grand screen, executed in Coade's artificial stone, from a design by Mr. Emlyn. The stalls, particularly those for the monarch and the prince, were repaired, parts newly made, and other parts greatly ornamented. They are adorned with a profusion of small ornaments, carved in oak, and varnished. The great eastern window, and those at the east and west ends of the south aisle, also that at the west end of the north aisle, have been fitted with painted glass, executed by Jarvis and his pupil Forest, from designs by Mr. West. The whole of the interior was newly paved, the roof and sides cleaned and repaired, and the different monuments, paintings, gildings, &c., restored to their pristine characters."

it was added, that he was a baptist minister in Yorkshire, of the name of Fawcett. His Majesty applied to the author, and the book was sent, accompanied by a modest and respectful letter. The King read the whole with great pleasure, and expressed to Mr. F. his wish to serve him in any way that might be agreeable. The author, being a dissenter, rested satisfied with expressing the high sense he entertained of the honor done him, without soliciting farther favors. Some time after this, however, the son of one of Mr. F.'s most respected members, clerk to a mercantile house at Leeds, was convicted of forgery, when, sympathizing with the afflicted parent, Mr. F. determined to avail himself of his interest with the King, and wrote a very pathetic letter, requesting the life of the young man. A reprieve was immediately ordered, to the great surprise of all who did not know the previous circumstances; and we have had the pleasure recently to learn, that the young man, who was sent abroad, still lives to bless the clemency of his sovereign.

It was in the course of this year, also, that a fortunate detection took place of the treasonable designs of the unhappy Despard—designs which had in view the massacre of His Majesty, and the whole of the royal family.

1803.

On the Queen's birth-day, in 1803, the King was in good health and spirits, though lame with a

complaint in his foot, which was pronounced by his physicians to be a slight affection of the rheumatic gout.

It was therefore thought adviseable that he should not attend the drawing-room at St. James's; and accordingly he did not leave Buckingham House, but received there the respects of a great number of the nobility and gentry, who waited on him previous to the commencement of the state ceremonial; and he afterwards transacted business with several of the ministers.

The evening closed with a concert, at which His Majesty joined his family, and displayed great cheerfulness and affability to about one hundred and fifty of the first fashion, who had been invited to meet their majesties at the Queen's Palace.

On the seventeenth of May, the proclamation for reprisals against the French republic was issued; soon after which, the King, anxious for his hereditary electorate, caused a proclamation to be published in Germany, which, under the form rather of a memorial, stated, that the differences between England and France were of such a nature as to concern only the former, and could in no manner relate to His Majesty as elector, and a member of the Germanic empire.

The King therefore expressed his wish to abide by the treaty of Luneville, and stated his right to expect that the treaty would procure perfect safety for his Germanic states in a war foreign to the

empire. He added, that the preparations he had made were therefore merely defensive; and that, in his quality of elector, he would take no part in the war.

This declaration, however, had no effect; for early in June the electorate was taken possession of by General Mortier, by a convention which gave up all the electoral property to the invaders, and exposed the people to the most horrid excesses of the French troops.

To describe the patriotic exertions of the people of England at this moment, at the commencement of a new war, their subscriptions, their energetic resolutions, in defence of their king and country, belongs more to history than biography; but we must state that it was most particularly felt by His Majesty, who manifested his sense of it on all occasions, but especially on the twelfth of August, when he arrived from Windsor at St. James's, and thence proceeded to the House of Peers to prorogue the parliament. He appeared in most excellent spirits, full of confidence and energy, and was received with the most ardent acclamations by the tens of thousands who crowded the Park, and all the streets leading from thence to the Parliament House.

The King took great interest in the progress of the war, as indeed he had done during the preceding one, though not always agreeing with his ministers as to the mode of prosecuting it. The Egyptian expedition, in particular, did not meet with his

assent when first proposed. To Mr. Dundas, the late respected Lord Melville, the country was indebted for the successes upon that excursion, which His Majesty, in this year, had the liberality to acknowledge; for having visited Mr. Dundas, upon some particular occasion, he took up a glass of wine, and gave as a toast, "The health of the man who had the ability to plan, and the fortitude to persevere in, the expedition to Egypt, against my opinion!"

The twenty-sixth of October was truly a proud day for this country. It presented the sublime spectacle of a patriot monarch, who reigned no less distinguished in the hearts of his people than on his throne, meeting the brave citizens of his metropolis armed in defence of his crown and of the British constitution, and with the characteristic virtue of Albion's sons, resolved to continue free, or gloriously to fall with the liberty and independence of their country. Such a spectacle was certainly worthy of such a people—we trust that such a people will always be deserving of the superior blessings they possess.

To describe the general interest of the day, would be to fill a volume; suffice it to say, that the effect of this day's exhibition was to draw closer the ties which connected our gracious sovereign with his people, in consequence of the common danger with which an audacious enemy had dared to threaten both. In the immense crowds which filled Hyde

Park, every countenance shewed that individuals were not prompted by a common curiosity to see a military review, but it was a deeper and more lively interest, as if the mutual affections which unite all ranks had been enhanced: and it was particularly remarked, that, instead of those common testimonies of mutual regard which marked the meetings of the sovereign and his people on former occasions, there was on that day an uncommon ardour and earnestness in the salutations which His Majesty received from the public, and an extraordinary warmth in the manner in which he returned them, evidently excited by the unprecedented circumstances of the times.

On this splendid day of exhibition, also, the armed citizens of London came to shew to their monarch that they were prepared to shed the last drop of their blood in his defence—in defence of the constitution and of their country; whilst that monarch met them not only to behold their ardor in the glorious cause, but also to evince his own: motives on both sides which seemed mutually appreciated by the thousands whom sex and age had rendered mere, but not uninterested, spectators of the scene.

The various military arrangements on this occasion were made with the utmost punctuality and precision; and the line being formed by signal, His Majesty's approach was announced a little before

ten o'clock, with all the pomp and circumstance of military royalty.

The King came in his private carriage inside of the Kensington gate, where he mounted his charger, preceded by the Life Guards, and royal grooms with led horses; attended by all the princes, and followed by the Queen and the two elder princesses, in an open landau, after whom came the other princesses.

As the cavalcade advanced to the line, it was joined by the whole house of Bourbon, with the exception of Louis the Eighteenth, when the royal salutes were fired, and the King passed the lines in the usual military order.

The scene was grand in the extreme, and seemed to have an extraordinary effect upon all. When the review was over, the two royal families of Brunswick and Bourbon passed along towards Piccadilly gate, in their way to the Queen's Palace, followed by an immense crowd, who were no longer restrained by military arrangement from approaching the royal party. Indeed, the moment that the line was broken, the people ran in all directions to indulge their loyal feelings with a nearer view of their sovereign, filling the air with their shouts, whilst the King himself manifested the deepest sense of their conduct, not only by the satisfaction which was visible in his countenance, but by pulling off his hat, and giving other evident marks of his reciprocal feelings.

It was calculated, that, including the volunteers, and the regular troops who kept the lines, there were not less than two hundred thousand people in the Park, yet not a single accident happened, although the trees, the house-tops, and indeed every position from which curiosity could satisfy itself, were taken possession of. It was, in short, a day which afforded the most glorious sight the metropolis had ever witnessed, without a single circumstance to excite the smallest regret. The troops reviewed were twelve thousand four hundred and one.

A similar scene took place on Friday, the twenty-eighth, when the Westminster, Lambeth, and Southwark corps, were reviewed on the same spot. To describe that scene would be but a repetition of the former; suffice it to say, that every thing went off with the same loyalty and eclat as on the preceding occasion; both days commencing with thick and heavy fogs, and both days clearing up in a most unprecedented manner, as if to heighten the effect of the splendid exhibition.

In the midst of the preparations for war, the King was not inattentive to the milder arts; and accordingly, in November, he interfered most pointedly in a dispute amongst the members of the Royal Academy, where the president or council appeared to have suspended the treasurer of that body, and were accused of then proceeding to vote away the fund in a manner not sanctioned by the statutes.

The King instantly ordered the matter to be referred to the attorney-general, who agreed precisely in opinion with His Majesty, that the proceedings were illegal; in consequence of which the royal patron, with his own hand, erased the resolutions. On the twenty-first a general meeting of the academy was held, in pursuance of a royal message; and the attorney-general's opinion being declared, together with that of His Majesty, these were both ordered to be recorded in the books of the academy.

As the threatened invasion of this year called forth the active exertions of all, it was natural for the heir-apparent to wish for an ostensible military appointment equal to his rank, and sufficiently honorable for a man of spirit. Circumstances, indeed, prevented his wishes from being gratified; but to enter into these circumstances would carry us too far from our present subject: it is, however, a duty to record the motives to the long and warm correspondence which ensued, as we do in the note below;* though perhaps the best commentary upon

* The first letter of the Prince, written in July, to the prime minister, contained the following manly sentiments:—"Animated by the same spirit which pervaded the nation at large, conscious of the duties which I owed to His Majesty and the country, I seized the earliest opportunity to express my desire of undertaking the responsibility of a military command: I neither did, nor do, presume on supposed talents as entitling me to such an appointment. I am aware I do not possess the experience of actual warfare: at the same time I cannot regard

the whole affair is to be found in a letter from the late gallant Nelson to a friend, who had sent the

myself as totally unqualified or deficient in military science, since I have long made the service my particular study. My chief pretensions were founded on a sense of those advantages which my example might produce to the state, by exciting the loyal energies of the nation, and a knowledge of those expectations which the public had a right to form as to the personal exertion of their princes at a moment like the present. The more elevated my situation, insomuch the efforts of zeal became necessarily greater; and I confess, that if duty had not been so paramount, a reflection on the splendid achievements of my predecessors would have excited in me the spirit of emulation; when, however, in addition to such recollections, the nature of the contest in which we are about to engage was impressed on my consideration, I should indeed have been devoid of every virtuous sentiment, if I felt no reluctance in remaining a passive spectator of armaments, which have for their object the very existence of the British empire.

"I can never forget that I have solemn obligations imposed on me by my birth, and that I should ever shew myself foremost in contributing to the preservation of the country. The time is arrived when I may prove myself sensible of the duties of my situation, and of evincing my devotion to that sovereign, who by nature, as well as public worth, commands my most affectionate attachment.

"I repeat that I should be sorry to embarrass the government at any time, most particularly at such a crisis. But since no event in my future life could compensate for the misfortune of no participating in the honors and dangers which await the brave men destined to oppose an invading enemy, I cannot forego the earnest renewal of my application.

"All I solicit is, a more ostensible situation than that in which I am at present placed, for situated as I am, as a mere colonel of a regiment, the major-general commanding the

printed correspondence to him whilst cruizing in the Mediterranean: "I suppose there must be some

brigade, of which such a regiment must form a part, would justly expect and receive the full credit of pre-arrangement, and successful enterprise. I remain, Sir, very sincerely, your's.

(Signed) G. P."

After some desultory correspondence, the Prince determined to address his venerable parent; which letter, with the royal answer, we also insert, on account of their honorable and patriotic sentiments.

"TO THE KING.

"Sir,

"A correspondence has taken place between Mr. Addington and myself on a subject which deeply involves my honor and character. The answer which I have received from that gentleman, the communication which he has made to the House of Commons, leave me no hope but in an appeal to the justice of your Majesty. I make that appeal with confidence, because I feel that you are my natural advocate; and with the sanguine hope that the ears of an affectionate father may still be opened to the application of a dutiful son.

"I ask to be allowed to display the best energies of my character; to shed the last drop of my blood in support of your Majesty's person, crown, and dignity; for this is not a war for empire, glory, or dominion, but for existence. In this contest, the lowest and humblest of your Majesty's subjects have been called on; it would therefore little become me, who am the first, and who stand at the very footstool of the throne, to remain a tame, an idle, and lifeless spectator, of the mischiefs which threaten us, unconscious of the dangers which surround us, and indifferent to the consequences which may follow. Hanover is lost; England is menaced with invasion; Ireland is in rebellion; Europe is at the foot of France. At such a moment the Prince of Wales, yielding to none of your

strong reasons for not complying with his royal highness's wishes. I think I see that the King

servants in zeal and devotion—to none of your subjects in duty—to none of your children in tenderness and affection, presumes to approach you, and again to repeat those offers which he has already made through your Majesty's ministers. A feeling of honest ambition; a sense of what I owe to myself and to my family; and, above all, the fear of sinking in the estimation of that gallant army which may be the support of your Majesty's crown, and my best hope hereafter, command me to persevere, and to assure your Majesty, with all humility and respect, that, conscious of the justice of my claim, no human power can ever induce me to relinquish it.

"Allow me to say, Sir, that I am bound to adopt this line of conduct by every motive dear to me as a man, and sacred to me as a prince. Ought I not to come forward in a moment of unexampled difficulty and danger? Ought I not to share in the glory of victory, when I have every thing to lose by defeat? The highest places in your Majesty's service are filled by the younger branches of the royal family: to me alone no place is assigned; I am not thought worthy to be even the junior major-general of your army. If I could submit in silence to such indignities, I should indeed deserve such treatment, and prove to the satisfaction of your enemies, and my own, that I am entirely incapable of those exertions, which my birth, and the circumstances of the times, peculiarly call for. Standing so near the throne, when I am debased, the cause of royalty is wounded. I cannot sink in public opinion, without the participation of your Majesty in my degradation. Therefore every motive of private feeling, and of public duty, induce me to implore your Majesty to review your decision, and to place me in that situation, which my birth, the duties of my station, the example of my predecessors, and the expectations of the people of England, entitle me to claim.

intends to have the Prince and his regiment attached to His Majesty's person. As a man and a

"Should I be disappointed in the hope which I have formed; should this last appeal to the justice of my sovereign, and the affection of my father, fail of success, I shall lament in silent submission his determination; but Europe, the world, and posterity, must judge between us.

"I have done my duty; my conscience acquits me; my reason tells me that I was perfectly justified in the request which I have made, because no reasonable arguments have ever been adduced in answer to my pretensions. The precedents in our history are in my favor; but if they were not, the times in which we live, and especially the exigencies of the present moment, require us to become an example to our posterity.

"No other cause of refusal has or can be assigned, except that it was the will of your Majesty. To that will and pleasure I bow with every degree of humility and resignation; but I can never cease to complain of the severity which has been exercised against me, and the injustice which I have suffered, till I cease to exist.

"I have the honor to subscribe myself, with all possible devotion, your Majesty's most dutiful and affectionate Son, and subject,

(Signed) G. P.

"Brighthelmstone, Aug. 6, 1813."

ANSWER, FROM THE KING.

"My dear Son, Windsor, 7th August.

"Though I applaud your zeal and spirit, of which, I trust, no one can suppose any of my family wanting, yet, considering the repeated declarations I have made of my determination on your former applications to the same purpose, I had flattered myself to have heard no farther on the subject. Should the implacable enemy so far succeed as to land, you will have an

soldier, there can be no reason why his royal highness should not be promoted, if he wishes it; but I believe we are now so well prepared, that the French will not venture the landing in England."

An affair of a different nature, but equally honorable to the monarch as the patriotic sentiments recorded in the note, must not be omitted, though it has been already slightly noticed, in reference to the clerk of a mercantile house in Leeds, who was tried on a charge of forgery, found guilty, and sentenced to death. His family, at Halifax, was very respectable, and his father, in particular, bore an excellent character. Immediately after the sentence was passed upon the unfortunate young man, a dissenting minister, of the Baptist persuasion, who had long been intimate with the father, presumed to address His Majesty in a most moving petition, soliciting the pardon of the son of his friend. Fully aware that it had been almost an invariable rule with the government to grant no pardon in cases of forgery, he had little hope of success; but, contrary to his expectation, his petition prevailed, and the reprieve was granted. That the solicitation of a private

opportunity of shewing your zeal at the head of your regiment. It will be the duty of every man to stand forward on such an occasion: and I shall certainly think it mine to set an example in defence of every thing that is dear to me and to my people.

"I ever remain, my dear Son,

"Your most affectionate Father,

(Signed) G. R."

individual should have succeeded, when similar applications, urged by numbers, and supported by great interest, have uniformly failed, may excite surprise, and deserves particular observation. The following circumstances, however, the veracity of which may be relied upon, will fully explain the singularity of the fact. In the year 1802, as before noticed, a dignified divine, preaching before the royal family, happened to quote a passage illustrative of his subject from a living writer, whose name he did not mention. The King, who was always remarkably attentive, was struck with the quotation, and immediately noted the passage for an inquiry. At the conclusion of the service he asked the preacher from whom his extract had been taken; and being informed that the author was a dissenting minister in Yorkshire, he expressed a wish to have a copy of the original discourse. The royal inclination was accordingly imparted to the author, who lost no time in complying with it, accompanying the work with a very modest letter, expressive of the high sense which the writer entertained of the honor conferred upon him. His Majesty was so well pleased with the production, as to signify his readiness to serve the author. The case of the above young man shortly after afforded this amiable and disinterested minister the opportunity of supplicating, at the hands of the monarch, the exercise of his royal prerogative; and that the sovereign, after having voluntarily given the assurance of his favor

to an obscure, but meritorious individual, should be induced rather to depart from an established rule, than violate the sacredness of his pledge, displays a dignity of mind, and a benevolence of heart, which cannot fail to elevate his character above all panegyric.

1804.

On the fourteenth of February, 1804, His Majesty was suddenly taken ill, whilst at the Queen's Palace, and was so much indisposed as to require the close attendance of the physicians. Public anxiety and sympathy were excited in a most extraordinary manner; but in a month his health gradually amended; and a general form of thanksgiving for his recovery was celebrated in the churches of the metropolis, and for the hopes of a rapid re-establishment; the premier also assuring the House of Commons of a speedy recovery.

The ambitious Napoleon having at length declared himself Emperor of the French, and commenced the most gigantic preparations for the destruction of this happy country, His Majesty, with the approbation of the nation at large, judged it prudent to recall Mr. Pitt to his councils, who again became chancellor of the exchequer, and first lord of the treasury, on the twelfth of May.

The usual Weymouth trip commenced this year under the most favorable auspices; and it was well observed, that whilst crouching millions were com-

pelled to join in the military cavalcade of an arbitrary tyrant on the continent, it was a proud and pleasing sight to witness the striking contrast in this country in the occurrences on this route, and the mild and unassuming condescension of our venerable sovereign.

With his usual attention to all, His Majesty would not quit Windsor until he had taken leave of all the faithful subjects who generally surrounded him at that residence; accordingly, on the evening of the twenty-third of August, accompanied by the Queen, princesses, and two of the royal dukes, he made a point of appearing on the terrace, which was greatly crowded by numbers of the nobility, and other persons of distinction, from amongst whom a select party were invited to pass the evening at the castle.

The next morning the royal party set off, not by the usual route of Bagshot, but through the forest, to visit Sir William Pitt, at Heckfield Heath, where the whole village was in a bustle in expectation of their arrival, the church bells merrily ringing, and the peasantry crowding the roads in all directions. After partaking of an early dinner, and examining the house and grounds, they proceeded to Andover, in time for supper at the Star and Garter, where the honest landlord was busily exerting himself for the honor which he was about to receive. The notice was sudden; but his preparations soon reached the ears of the gentry in the vicinity, who

flocked in throughout the day to witness a sight so novel; and their curiosity was fully gratified by the arrival of the royal party at a quarter past seven, when the King and his faithful consort arrived first in their travelling post-chaise, which drew up under the gateway. His Majesty appeared in excellent spirits, handed the Queen out of the carriage with the greatest gallantry, cautioning her against the number of steps; and then, with all the freedom of an ordinary traveller, ordered tea immediately, and supper to be ready at nine o'clock, and the carriages at ten; but the bustling landlord was unable strictly to obey his sovereign's commands; and, like other travellers, the King was obliged to yield to the landlord, whose utmost exertions could not place the supper on the table before the hour already appointed for setting off.

All this, however, His Majesty bore with his characteristic good-humour; and the princesses having discovered a young landlord about three months old, a remarkably fine infant, it had the honor of being presented to their majesties, who received it with the most gracious admiration and condescension, though without exciting any ambitious hopes in the bosom of the new courtier, whatever might have been the hopes of the parents.

The important business of supper being despatched (for kings and queens must eat as well, or happy if they can do it as well, as the lowliest of their subjects), the cavalcade started for Dorchester,

where they were met by a party of the German Legion, and a detachment of the Fifteenth Light Dragoons, with the commanding officers of which His Majesty conversed freely in German whilst the horses were changing; and at five in the morning they arrived at Weymouth, where they were received with the most loyal acclamations of all the good people of the place; after which the royal party retired to rest, as no doubt also did many of their loyal subjects, some of whom perhaps lay longer than His Majesty, for he was on the Esplanade as usual, soon after seven o'clock; and immediately after breakfast mounted his horse to inspect the Hanoverian Legion, then in barracks, as he did the German Legion in the afternoon; together with the Weymouth volunteers and Somersetshire militia, who went through their evolutions in the front of Gloucester Lodge, where the Queen and princesses stood at the windows to enjoy the scene, and listen to the military airs performed by the different bands of music.

Through the whole of this scene His Majesty seemed highly pleased; he conversed freely with the officers of the different corps, and with those of the royal yacht and ships in the bay, which soon after fired a royal salute, when the King spoke most condescendingly to those around him, of all ranks telling them to depend upon the wooden walls of old England.

A series of aquatic excursions, of naval and mili-

tary reviews, now took place: occurrences so fully detailed, in regard to manner and effect, in our earlier pages, as to require no specific delineation here, further than to observe, that at this moment there were about four thousand troops assembled in the vicinity, with a naval force, consisting of the Crescent and Æolus frigates, a twenty gun ship, three royal yachts, with several sloops of war and cutters—a force, as it was observed, more than equal to meet any attempt which the Corsican usurper could send, should he, envying the happiness of a monarch who lived in the hearts of his people, have dared to interrupt the happiness of the British people, by any dashing attempt to seize His Majesty's person.

The King had not been long at Weymouth, when it was plainly perceived that the pure air of the sea-coast had produced a visible effect upon his health, so that there was not the least doubt that a few weeks would restore him to perfect convalescence. Even then his spirits were excellent; and he never appeared out of doors without continuing to endear himself to every class of his subjects, by the greatest affability and condescension; conversing with the farmer on agriculture, with the soldier on military duties, with the sailor on the hostile preparations for invasion, and his reliance on the skill and bravery of the navy.

Indeed, he now seemed much more attached to the latter service than on any former occasion; and

which he illustrated in a very apt and happy manner on one occasion, when going on board the yacht, and hearing an attendant caution an honest Jack to be careful in handing up some musical instrument, he instantly turned round, and exclaimed, "Oh! there is no occasion for that caution: every thing is safe in the hands of a British seaman."

During the whole of His Majesty's residence at Weymouth, it was noticed that his recollection of persons, and of past circumstances, was as strong as ever; whilst his conversation, which was even more lively than usual, excited approving smiles from all around. On graver subjects, too, he failed not to give ample proofs of a very general knowledge.

In point of personal activity, it certainly was allowed that he had no equal: his hours of repose were very few; and the remaining ones were completely occupied, either in business, or in recreation; so that he appeared never to have an idle moment.

The annual visit to Portland took place on the third of September, under circumstances of the most brilliant naval and military display, when their majesties made the complete circuit of that picturesque island, or, rather, peninsula, delighted with the scenery, and enjoying their repast at the Castle inn, forgetting all the exterior pomp of royalty, and mixing most condescendingly amongst the loyal crowds that surrounded them.

On the ensuing day there were a grand review and sham fight on Bincomb Downs, in very fine style, and which those downs are so well calculated to display. The whole exhibition was accurately military; and the weather, being remarkably fine, rendered the scene truly delightful. The greatest assemblage ever remembered in Dorsetshire was present, including carriages of all descriptions, horsemen, and pedestrians; and the entire presented a scene much admired and praised by the whole royal party.

The anniversary of the royal wedding was commemorated by a grand fête, upwards of two hundred being invited to dinner; after which there was a most brilliant ball—a scene which threw all Weymouth into a bustle, and drew thousands from the surrounding vicinity, in order to partake of the general joy.

The military reviews were not confined to Weymouth; for, on the seventeenth of September, the Hanoverian Light Horse at Dorchester, which the Duke of Cambridge had taken great pains to complete in the best style of German tactics, had a grand field-day, where the King and royal family attended; after which the officers were invited to a sumptuous dinner at the hotel, in Weymouth, His Majesty also ordering half a pound of pork, a pound of mutton, with bread, and three pints of beer, to each of the soldiers, who thus enjoyed themselves in happiness and comfort, very different from

what many of their ill-fated friends and fellow-countrymen were suffering in the legions of Napoleon.

The anniversary of the coronation was celebrated by a review of all the troops on Bincomb Down; after which the whole of the family returned to a grand fête at the Royal Hotel, consisting of a public dinner and ball, given by more than three hundred of the nobility, gentry, officers, and people of respectability of the town and neighbourhood. Their majesties enjoyed the scene most highly, remaining till near midnight; and then expressing regret that their necessarily early hours prevented them from staying longer. In return, some days afterwards, a grand naval fête was given on board the three royal yachts to as many as they could contain, whilst His Majesty had elegant marquees erected close to the beach for the remainder; after which a Dutch fair was held that afforded much amusement.

Thus passed the time pleasantly until the twenty-seventh of October, when the King took his last aquatic excursion; and on his return to the shore all the ships in the harbour were manned, and the shore crowded with spectators, every person joining in three cheers, which were considered as the farewell salute: on the ensuing day also, when the royal party made their final visit to the rooms, they were saluted at parting in a similar manner.

The twenty-ninth of October was the day of departure, when the King determined to stop that night at Cuffnells, the seat of Mr. Rose, near Southampton, where he arrived to dinner, after breakfasting at Charborough with Mr. Grosvenor, and receiving all military honors from the volunteers in the various places through which he passed in his route by the New Forest.

The next morning was dedicated to a visit to Southampton, where His Majesty received an address from the corporation, to which he returned a most gracious answer, expressive of his particular attachment to the corporation and town of Southampton; having been a member of that corporation from his infancy. Cuffnells was again the royal head-quarters for the night; and on the second of November the royal party set off, dining at Farnham Castle with the Bishop of Winchester, and arriving at Windsor in the evening.

We are happy to record in this place, that the long expected interview of reconciliation between the sovereign and heir-apparent occurred at Kew Palace, on the twelfth, after His Majesty's return: on which occasion the Queen and princesses were present.

This meeting, after so long an interval of family separation, was marked by every emotion of kindness and of conciliation on the one part, and on the other by the most profound respect and veneration: thus terminating an unhappy difference,

which had long given great pain to all the loyal part of the nation.

His Majesty's regard for the welfare and happiness of the army, individually, both officers and men, has long been well appreciated; and a particular instance of it occurred this year in the autumn, in consequence of a court-martial held upon an officer of high rank for striking a private. The officer was found guilty, and sentenced to receive a severe reprimand, which His Majesty most pointedly declared his approbation of in the fullest extent, specifically directing, through the commander-in-chief, that the judge advocate's letter should express the sovereign's wish that the lieutenant-colonel, in his zeal for the service, had conducted his command with more temper than in some instances he appeared to have done, and that it should also declare the King's high disapprobation of striking a soldier at any time, but more especially when under arms; although the blow, as in the case adduced in the evidence, be inflicted without cruelty, and without any material hurt.

This was indeed a decision worthy of an honorable and a generous mind; a mind which could thus consecrate, as it were, the feelings of the humblest of his subjects, adding humanity to decorum, and checking that, which, if once become general, would infallibly disgust the private, whilst it must also tend to brutalize the officer.

1805.

In the early part of 1805, Buonaparte, with his accustomed impertinence, and for the sake of the effect which offers of peace would have on the minds of the French, thought proper to address a familiar epistle to His Majesty, quite in the style of a brother sovereign, announcing his assumption of the imperial purple, and asking the venerable monarch, as if he had been the aggressor, "what was to be gained by continuing the war?" To this a dignified official reply was sent, repeating the royal wishes for tranquillity, but at the same time a full conviction that a permanent and honorable peace could only be attained by arrangements that should provide for the future safety and tranquillity of Europe, and of the world.

The value of Napoleon's offers of peace was fully appreciated by His Majesty, who was well aware that finally to ensure a peace could only be done by active preparations for war; accordingly, increased military and naval activity took place in all quarters; yet amidst this din of war the good old monarch was not unmindful of the arts of peace, for we find him early in this year presenting to the Society of Antiquaries some of the most antient and valuable paintings from Windsor Castle, consisting of Henry the Eighth and family; Henry's embarkation at Dover; the meeting of

Henry and Francis at Ardres; and the battle of Spurs, at Terwaen; all of which have been engraved by the Society.

The Castle at Windsor, which was now intended to be the future residence of their majesties and the princesses, instead of the inconvenient Lodge, had long been experiencing repairs and improvements under the directions of Mr. Wyatt, but still agreeable to the suggestions of His Majesty, who was acknowledged to be well versed both in Gothic and Grecian architecture.

In this repair the Gothic was preserved as much as possible; but the apartments intended for domestic use were fitted up in all the convenience of the modern style of magnificence. His Majesty's own apartments were literally crowded with valuable paintings.

Every arrangement that circumstances would now admit of was adopted; but it was supposed that six years more would be required for the general completion of all His Majesty's plans.

Though the King did not at present attend so strictly to court etiquette, yet he always felt great pleasure in being surrounded in a more familiar way by his faithful subjects, we may almost say of all ranks; and in furtherance of this, a most magnificent entertainment was given at Windsor Castle, on the twenty-fifth of February, which was acknowledged not to have been equalled by any previous thing of the kind. The arrangements,

which had been a long time in preparation, were entirely under the personal direction of His Majesty, and the expenses incurred were calculated to have exceeded fifty thousand pounds, besides which, a new service of plate, supposed to be the most superb in the world, was prepared for the occasion; and the apartments allotted to the fête were illuminated by the immense silver chandeliers brought from Hanover, interspersed amongst a variety of superb glass lustres of the richest designs.

About four hundred cards were distributed amongst the nobility and world of fashion; and the entertainments were proposed to be a ball, cards, and music, with supper, &c.

To give novelty to the scene, the King expressly ordered that the Oratorio of Esther should be got up; choosing this not only as one of Handel's finest pieces, but because it had not been performed for many years.

In the interior of the castle all was elegance and affability; but in the court-yard, and on the grand staircase, every circumstance of military pomp was exhibited by the disposition of parties of the Oxford Blues and Staffordshire Militia.

The company began to assemble about seven o'clock, and on their arrival were severally introduced to their majesties by the royal pages, as on a court-day; but all etiquette was then at an end, and each party, after paying their respects, proceeded to view the rooms, which gave motion and

animation to the scene; and as the visitors increased in number, the effect was considerably heightened by the brilliancy of their dresses.

To those who have visited the interior of Windsor Castle, it is needless to expatiate upon the splendor of the immense silver tables, or the elegant pier glasses with massy silver frames, which drew the attention of the company until the commencement of the concert:—after this, the merry dance led them to the ball-room, the floor of which was painted in the most beautiful style; from whence they departed not until the hour of supper, which was laid out in several apartments, the royal table being in the guard-room, and by the King's express order was placed on a platform raised some height from the floor, for the double purpose of enabling the royal party to see their guests, and to gratify the company by a good view of the royal hosts; for, though there was no apartment large enough to have admitted tables for all, yet two tables were spread along the sides of this room, which held about sixty each.

The royal service was entirely gold; the other tables were in silver; but perhaps the beautiful damask table linen was the greatest curiosity, for it had been entirely spun by the princesses.

To enumerate all the elegance of the supper is unnecessary; but we may add, that about eighty of the young gentlemen of Eton school supped in the presence-chamber; the King having gone him-

self, with the greatest condescension, to Eton to invite them.

Such an assemblage could not fail to fill the town of Windsor to an overflow, so that many of the company were obliged to return to London; but to those who could remain, the Queen, next morning, gave a splendid public breakfast at Frogmore, which was attended by upwards of two hundred of the evening party, who commenced dancing about three, and enjoyed a splendid treat until six in the evening; being waited upon by the royal servants in full dress livery.

Perhaps there is no crowned head or royal family in Europe that have been more annoyed by fools and maniacs than our own; another instance of which took place on the seventeenth of March, when a man of shabby appearance was observed lurking about Windsor Great Park; and on being questioned by the keepers, he replied that he came there by the appointment of Mr. Pitt to meet the King; and that he expected the King's carriage to convey him to the Castle.

Having evident symptoms of derangement about him, the park-keeper took him in charge; and on investigation he turned out to be an Irishman, and a barrister; but being perfectly harmless, he was restored to his friends.

The King had long been making extensive preparations for a magnificent installation of the Order of the Garter, which took place at Windsor Castle

on St. George's day, the twenty-third of April: an exhibition, which, as it was enhanced in interest and value by the peculiar care bestowed upon it by His Majesty, proved a strong excitement to public curiosity. To detail the precise ceremonial of this august exhibition is unnecessary; but we may observe, as a curious fact, that the number of knights assembled, which was twenty-six, was not only greater than at any installation of the order which ever yet took place, even than that of the original institution; but that it amounted to precisely the number of the order upon its original foundation by Edward the Third, by whom it was fixed at twenty-five knights, exclusive of the sovereign.

It was the King's particular wish that as many of the old customs should be kept up as possible; and accordingly he gave directions that a baron of beef should be procured, which was done, weighing one hundred and sixty-two pounds. This was roasted on the Sunday previous to the installation, and took upwards of ten hours in dressing; and the novelty of the affair attracted much of His Majesty's attention; so that during the time it was roasting he brought several parties of distinction to view it. In fact, it was so large that no jack would turn it, for which purpose a man was employed; and it became even necessary to have a silver dish made for serving it up.

To describe all the hurry and bustle of prepara-

tion in Windsor, its vicinity, and on the road to it, for several days, is needless; but such was the throng of passengers, that it became at length impossible to obtain relays of horses; and parties of the first consequence were actually, in many instances, forced to become pedestrians, or lose their chance of accommodation at the end of their journey.

The day of installation was ushered in with ringing of bells, and every note of military preparation; and the morning being extremely fine, the whole scene had a most imposing effect; the first ceremony performed being the presentation, by His Majesty, of a pair of silver kettle-drums to the Royal Horse-Guards (in which His Majesty personally held a troop), who, for that purpose, marched from their barracks, and drew up opposite the grand entrance to the Castle, where the King made his first appearance a little before eight o'clock; and the kettle-drums having been previously placed there, he addressed Colonel Dorrien, saying, "I present these drums to you as a mark of my esteem for the good conduct of the regiment upon all occasions." The colonel then presented to His Majesty a written address from the regiment; and a corporal having lifted the drums upon a horse, where a black drummer was prepared to beat them, the band, consisting of eight trumpets, struck up, "God save the King;" then the regiment gave a royal salute, and marched through the

town with their royal present, playing "Britons strike Home!"

Anxious to guard against all disorder or accident, His Majesty made the most judicious regulations for both the military and civil power: the Royal Horse-Guards being placed at the requisition of Sir Richard Ford, the police magistrate, from town.

At ten the procession began, for the particulars of which we must refer to the journals of that year; we may observe, however, that all the arrangements of ceremony, which were very numerous, were prepared by the King's express regulation, the whole of which he adhered to most strictly, behaving with every due attention to the chivalrous spirit and majesty of the scene, during a space of seven hours.

Being all *Companions*, the knights sat down to the sovereign's table, wearing their caps of state, except when the sovereign drank to them, when they rose up uncovered.

After the repast, the knights retired to the presence chamber, and the ceremonial was at an end, after a day of splendor the most brilliant, and of chivalrous pomp the most magnificent and impressive.

By the King's express regulation, every possible facility was given to the company invited, and indeed to all, to view every part of the ceremony: and whilst the repast of the order was going on, the Queen was not forgetful of the other guests, but did the honors of the Castle with great atten-

tion to the nobility and gentry of both sexes, as far as they could be accommodated in that superb residence.

The extreme and awful reverence which His Majesty always felt for the ceremonies of religion, was never more strongly manifested than during the preparations for this installation. A nobleman, high in favor, having asked in an apparently negligent, though not intentionally disrespectful, manner, whether the new knights would not be obliged to take the sacrament previous to the installation, the King instantly marked his feelings by a change of countenance; and with some appearance of severity, said, "No! that religious institution is not to be mixed with our profane ceremonies. Even at the time of my coronation, I was very unwilling to take the sacrament; but when I was assured that it was indispensable, and that I must receive it, before I even approached the communion table, I took off the bauble from my head. The sacrament, my lord, is not to be prophaned by our Gothic institutions!"

The Princess of Wales passed some time this spring on a visit to Windsor, where the King paid her the most marked attention; and at her departure presented her with two beautiful Arabian horses, and an elegant gold service. He also presented his infant grand-daughter with a magnificent tea-service of wrought gold, brilliantly decorated with diamonds and rubies.

His Majesty never heard of any new establishment, public or private, without expressing a wish to examine it; and he particularly manifested this year a desire to see all the improvements recently made at Chelsea Hospital. Accordingly, on the twentieth of June, their majesties, with the princesses and royal dukes, arrived there at an early hour, and investigated every thing most minutely, even to the hall and kitchens, where both the King and Queen mentioned their great satisfaction at the evident proofs that every care was taken of the humble veterans.

They next visited the Royal Military Asylum, and viewed the workshops; after which the children were drawn up in front of the hospital; the boys, to the number of four hundred and seventy-two, going through the different manœuvres of marching, &c. The children then retired to their dining halls, singing a verse of "God save the King," in each; when grace was said, and the little ones sat down to a dinner of beef and plum-pudding, affording great satisfaction to their royal visitors by their apparent comfort, and excellent discipline.

The King, in particular, said that it was one of the best conducted institutions in the country, and strongly recommended that the boys should be taught the use of artillery—a suggestion certainly highly worthy of adoption.

A cold collation was provided by the governor, and the party broke up.

The King seems now to have given up all intention of future residence in town; as, in the course of the summer and autumn, the whole of his magnificent library was removed from Buckingham House to Windsor, retaining only at the former a few books of general reference, for ready use in matters of state or politics, and which were placed in a small library, fitted up for the purpose.

The annual visit to Weymouth took place this year on the twelfth of July; but as our details of those excursions have already been sufficiently ample to delineate the style and manner of the royal residence, to say nothing of the uniform tenor of the venerable monarch's blameless life, and the regularity of his habits, it must be unnecessary minutely to recapitulate the passing occurrences of each day, or to enumerate the aquatic parties, the reviews, the regular attendance at divine service, the affable mixing with general society at the public rooms, or the thousand et ceteras with which the papers and periodical works of the times were most loyally occupied.

Two occurrences, however, we may record. The first is illustrative of the peculiar etiquette observed on occasion of the Princess Amelia's birth-day, when His Majesty gave a grand dinner at the Royal Hotel to the principal part of the company there, and the nobility and gentry of the vicinity. The royal family, however, did not dine with the company, but at the Lodge, and then went to the

hotel to receive their guests, returning to the Lodge, after dinner was served up, but joining the company at the ball, where they appeared as the friendly hosts of the brilliant assemblage.

A few days afterwards, whilst the royal party were at sea, they happened to fall in with a homeward-bound West India fleet, a sight which afforded such pleasure to the King, that he lengthened his cruize, passing through the convoy, and examining all the ships with great attention ; enjoying the salutes which took place in honor of the royal standard, and proudly exulting in the wealth which thus floated on the bosom of the ocean into the lap of Britannia.

The royal festivities were considerably clouded by the death of the Duke of Gloucester, which was announced on the twenty-sixth of August, and detained the whole royal party within the Lodge for some days, where they were visited by the male branches of the family ; and on the fourth of October their majesties returned to Kew, accompanied by all the princesses, much improved in health and spirits, and in good humour with themselves and their faithful subjects, whose loyalty had been loudly manifested wherever the venerable monarch had shewn himself.

The loss which His Majesty sustained in the demise of his brother, the Duke of Gloucester, was certainly to the great regret both of the King and of the royal family at large ; for though a slight cool-

ness ensued upon his marriage with the Countess Dowager of Waldegrave, and though reasons of state and court etiquette afterwards restrained the impulse of the King's feelings, with respect to his sister-in-law, yet the illustrious descendants of that marriage uniformly enjoyed the tenderest and most affectionate attention of their majesties.

The Duke himself, throughout his long life, was distinguished more by the equanimity of his temper and disposition, than by splendid or shewy talents; but from the marked kindness of his manners he always acquired the love of those who had access to his person. Respectful to his sovereign, affable to his acquaintance, and generous and condescending to his inferiors, he deservedly enjoyed the confidence of the former, and the unaffected esteem and regard of the latter.

Though a prince, he had the advantage of being well educated; and he was justly known to be a polite scholar, and esteemed an accomplished gentleman: whilst the meekness of his disposition influenced every tint in his character; even his very virtues partaking of the moderation that predominated in his temper and disposition. Yet he was not negligent in the exercise of those virtues; for though the modest reserve and placid serenity of his conduct kept many instances of his generosity out of view, he was always the liberal supporter of every institution calculated to promote the interests of society.

This reserve was perhaps useful to his happiness, for he never attempted to appear as a public character, but always kept himself aloof from interference with party intrigues, or the agitation of political topics; thus avoiding to wound the feelings of his royal brother, and setting an example of loyal and respectful attachment as a subject.

The funeral took place with all due ceremony at Windsor.

1806.

The death of Mr. Pitt, in 1806, was a most remarkable event in that year. To expatiate on his character, whom all must remember, is unnecessary, especially as the strains of panegyric and of invective, which were heard in every quarter, served as proofs in attesting that no common character had left the world.

To avoid both these extremes, it will be sufficient to observe that almost all parties agreed that his accessibility and industry as a minister were unequalled; that his eye was ever vigilant for the public interest; that he was incessant in the labors and duties of his office; that his personal administration was free from the least taint of corruption: whilst his poverty, instead of resulting from culpable remissness or profusion, was really an evidence that he sought not for power as an instrument of pecuniary emolument.

His Majesty felt the loss most severely; but the political arrangements of the period are matter of British history, rather than of personal biography; we shall therefore merely notice the death of Mr. Fox, which happened very soon afterwards; and as briefly allude to a "Delicate" transaction, in which His Majesty was an anxious and an active inquirer, but which was too much a matter of public notoriety to require further notice here;—we therefore gladly pass to, and insert verbatim, a cotemporary article, which exhibited an exact picture of the economy of the royal family at Windsor, till the unhappy return of the King's malady disordered the system, and threw a gloom over that beautiful mansion, which for so many years had been the seat of harmony, and an object of affection and admiration to the whole kingdom.

"Our sovereign's sight is so much improved since last spring, that he can now clearly distinguish objects at the extent of twenty yards. The King, in consequence of this favorable change, has discontinued the use of the large flapped hat which he usually wore, and likewise the silk shade.

"His Majesty's mode of living is now not quite so abstemious. He now sleeps on the north side of the castle, next the terrace, in a roomy apartment, not carpetted, on the ground floor. The room is neatly furnished, partly in a modern style, under the tasteful direction of the Princess Elizabeth. The King's private dining-room, and the

apartments *en suite*, appropriated to His Majesty's use, are all on the same side of the castle.

"The Queen and the princesses occupy the eastern wing. When the King rises, which is generally about half-past seven o'clock, he proceeds immediately to the Queen's saloon, where His Majesty is met by one of the princesses; generally either Augusta, Sophia, or Amelia; for each, in turn, attend their revered parent. From thence the sovereign and his daughter, attended by the lady in waiting, proceed to the chapel in the castle, wherein divine service is performed by the dean, or sub-dean: the ceremony occupies about an hour. Thus the time passes until nine o'clock; when the King, instead of proceeding to his own apartment, and breakfasting alone, now takes that meal with the Queen and the five princesses. The table is always set out in the Queen's noble breakfasting-room, which has been recently decorated with very elegant modern hangings; and, since the late improvements by Mr. Wyatt, commands a most delightful and extensive prospect of the Little Park. The breakfast does not occupy half an hour. The King and Queen sit at the head of the table, and the princesses according to seniority. Etiquette in every other respect is strictly adhered to. On entering the room the usual forms are observed, agreeably to rank.

"After breakfast, the King generally rides out on horseback, attended by his equerries: three of the

princesses, namely, Augusta, Sophia, and Amelia, are usually of the party. Instead of only walking his horse, His Majesty now proceeds at a good round trot. When the weather is unfavorable, the King retires to his favorite sitting-room, and sends for Generals Fitzroy or Manners to play at chess with him. His Majesty, who knows the game well, is highly pleased when he beats the former, that gentleman being an excellent player.

"The King dines regularly at two o'clock; the Queen and princesses at four. His Majesty visits, and takes a glass of wine and water with them, at five. After this period, public business is frequently transacted by the King in his own study, wherein he is attended by his private secretary, Colonel Taylor.

"The evening is, as usual, passed at cards, in the Queen's drawing-room, where three tables are set out. To these parties many of the principal nobility, &c. residing in the neighbourhood, are invited. When the castle clock strikes ten, the visitors retire. The supper is set out, but that is merely a matter of form, and of which none of the family partake. These illustrious personages retire at eleven o'clock, to rest for the night. The journal of one day is the history of a whole year."

We may here add an anecdote, which states that about this period, when His Majesty was first visited with the distressing calamity of blindness, some of his attendants were conducting him along

one of the passages in the castle, when he heard a person moving at one side to stand up out of the way. The King immediately inquired who was there, and was answered by the person. He instantly recognized the voice; and calling the individual by name, said, "I am quite blind." The person could not refrain from tears, and replied, "I am exceedingly sorry, please your Majesty." "But," rejoined the pious monarch, "I am quite resigned; for what have we to do in this world but to suffer, and to perform the will of the Almighty."

1807.

The year 1807 opened with some extraordinary proceedings respecting the Catholic question. To detail its various bearings is unnecessary, but to record the sentiments of the venerable Protestant monarch, upon that question, it is sufficient to insert his reply to the first lord of the treasury, when pressed to consent to bringing in the proposed bill—memorable words! that should be engraven, and, as far as known, will be, in the heart of every loyal Protestant subject.

"My lord, I am one of those that respect an oath. I have firmness sufficient to quit my throne and retire to a cottage, or place my neck on a block or a scaffold, if my people require it; but I have not resolution to break that oath which I took in the most solemn manner at my coronation."

On the twenty-fourth of March, Lord Grenville received a letter from His Majesty, stating that he would be ready to receive his and his colleagues' resignation the following day at noon, when the resignation took place at the Queen's Palace; and at three His Majesty held a private levee, when the new ministers kissed hands on their appointment.

On the twenty-fifth of April, the parliament was most unexpectedly prorogued, by a speech from the lords commissioners, previous to an intended dissolution, wherein they expressed His Majesty's great anxiety to recur to the sense of his people, whilst the events which had recently taken place were yet fresh in their recollection.

Another female maniac, said to have been a fac simile of Margaret Nicholson, in every thing but the attempt with a murderous weapon, was very troublesome to His Majesty on the twenty-seventh of May, having been waiting about the Queen's Palace for some time on that day; and about five o'clock in the evening, when the King's travelling carriage entered by the iron gate before the palace to wait for His Majesty, she rushed in after it unperceived by the sentries, but, being stopped by the gentleman porter, was prevented from any attempt at outrage. The poor creature had a letter, directed "To the King and Queen."

The last legitimate descendant of the unhappy house of Stuart, in the person of the Cardinal York,

or Henry the Ninth, as sometimes called, having made a will previous to his decease, bequeathed to the Prince of Wales two objects on which he had always set a very high value. These were the insignia of the Garter which had been worn by Charles the First, and a valuable ring of very high antiquity, which had been always worn by the kings of Scotland on the days of their coronation. His Majesty no sooner heard of his demise, than, with the most benevolent and liberal spirit, he ordered a pension of two thousand pounds per annum to be paid out of the privy purse to the Countess of Albany, as she had been latterly designated, widow of the young pretender, the unfortunate Charles Stuart, and now left destitute by the death of her brother-in-law.

In the spring of this year, the Princess of Wales, after a long estrangement from her royal relations, paid a visit to Buckingham House; a few weeks after which, His Majesty's sole surviving sister, flying from French aggression and Corsican insolence, took refuge in her native country. The good old monarch visited her at Blackheath immediately upon her arrival, when a most affectionate scene took place, after a separation of forty years, which may be better conceived than described.

As we have recorded many generous gifts of His Majesty to various establishments in his home dominions, we can shew that he was not inattentive to his colonies; as in this year he pre-

sented a most superb service of sacramental plate and candelebras, most curious in workmanship, and richly embossed with the royal insignia, to the great church of Quebec.

1808.

Considerable uneasiness was given to the King in 1808, by the agitation of disputes with his former colonies of America, whom it may be easily imagined he could not love, but with whom he was unwilling to quarrel. This was fully exemplified by the readiness with which he consented that a liberal and honorable explanation should take place in regard to the capture of the Chesapeake American frigate, by the Leopard man of war, in a dispute about the right of search for British seamen: but he did not suffer his pacific wishes to overcome his patriotic care of the honor of his realm, when the government of the United States attempted to connect with the question relative to that act pretensions inconsistent with the maritime rights of Britain. Such pretensions he took an opportunity of declaring in his speech to parliament that he never would admit of.

Whilst supporting the honor of his own country, he did not hesitate to give protection to the expatriated royal family of another; when, in the summer of this year, Louis the Eighteenth and his Queen, accompanied by the interesting daughter

of the murdered monarch, sought refuge in this land of freedom.

Equally honorable was his reply to the Russian offers of mediation—that he would even forego British advantages for the tranquillity of Europe; but he never would desert the cause of liberty in Spain.

The grand junta of Spain having resolved to mark their sense of gratitude for British aid, by a present of Merino sheep to His Majesty, a large flock was prepared, to the amount of two thousand five hundred; but of these seven hundred perished on the route and passage, and the remainder were presented to the King on the thirteenth of November, by Don F. de Aranjo, a Spanish gentleman, commissioned for that purpose, who was admitted to an audience at Windsor Castle.

The King instantly gave directions that these sheep should be taken care of at Kew and Richmond: and particularly ordered every care and attention to be shewn to the thirteen Spanish shepherds who came over in charge of them, and whose uncouth appearance attracted much notice in the metropolis at the time, as they were placed in a house near Hyde Park, with permission to stay as long in England as might suit their inclinations.

We must not omit to record that the whole number embarked in Spain was two thousand two hundred and fourteen, of which two hundred and fourteen were intended for some of the ministry, and other in-

dividuals. Of these, four hundred and twenty-seven died at sea, or on the route from Portsmouth to Kew; but His Majesty most graciously and generously took the whole loss as upon his own specific flock, permitting the full extra number to remain for the minor presents. The value of the thing was not indeed very great; but it marked a handsome and considerate regard, not only towards the gentlemen at home, but also towards the Spanish donors.

1809.

St. James's Palace was partly burnt down in January, 1809; and His Majesty not ordering any repairs, it was generally supposed that he intended to erect a new palace on the site; an intention, however, completely frustrated by his subsequent illness: but it must also be recollected that His Majesty's anxiety at this period was much excited by the investigation and discussions upon the conduct of the royal commander-in-chief, which occupied so much of the time of the House of Commons, and of the attention of the country at large.

His parental feelings were, however, fully gratified by the clear acquittal from all personal corruption, or from any personal consciousness of, or participation in, the surreptitious dealings of an artful woman, whose knowledge of war-office transactions, by her former connexion with a well known army-

agent, enabled her to procure that early information of proposed general promotions, by means of which she selected individuals in the list, whose friends might be prevailed on to advance douceurs to procure that step which was already determined on, and would have taken place, without her prostituted promises of interest and interference.

To enter into this subject further is beyond the limit of our biography; except to state, that however His Majesty regretted the necessity of accepting the official resignation of his son, yet he fully approved of the motives which led to that resignation, and accorded with the entrusting that arduous office to the late venerable Sir David Dundas, who was selected by ministers.

The commencement of the fiftieth year of His Majesty's mild reign introduced the well-known jubilee, when the British nation gave full scope to their joy and enthusiasm, in regard to a circumstance so auspicious. To enter into all the festivities of that day is unnecessary; but it is pleasing to record that its celebration was no less remarkable for the enthusiastic loyalty displayed, than for the wise and humane manner in which the gratitude of the nation to Providence, for having permitted their sovereign to reign so long, and for the continuance of independence and prosperity in the midst of the wreck of Europe, gave itself utterance.

Throughout all parts of the empire the hungry were fed; the naked were clothed; the prison-

doors were thrown open to the unfortunate debtor; and every heart, which man was capable of making glad, rejoiced on that day.

With regard to the King, personally, on this happy occasion, we may remark, that he attended divine service at the chapel, Windsor Castle, between eight and nine o'clock, accompanied by the Queen, Princess Elizabeth, and the Dukes of York and Sussex; after which the Queen and princess proceeded to Frogmore, where a triumphal arch had been raised, to inspect the preparations for a complimentary fête, in honor of the august consort and parent.

A large ox roasted whole had been prepared by the Queen's order in Bachelor's Acre, which was viewed by the whole royal family, with the exception of the King and the Princess of Wales, who were not present: at one o'clock also an appropriate royal ralute of fifty guns was discharged from a grove in Windsor Park; and at night the Queen gave a most superb fête at Frogmore, which, in point of taste, splendor, and brilliancy, had on no occasion been excelled; but His Majesty did not appear.

1810.

On the ninth of January, 1810, another contest took place on the part of the city of London, respecting the presenting of addresses from a com-

mon-hall, when it was stated to the hall that the remembrancer had called at the secretary of state's office with an address from the *livery*, and an intimation that it was intended to present it on the next levee day. Next day he was told that it must be left at the secretary of state's office to be presented by him to the King, as was customary with all addresses, except those from the two universities, and the *corporation* of London. On the levee day the lord-mayor told the secretary that he then had the address in his pocket, and wished to present it. The secretary said it was best to give it him, and he would save the lord-mayor all further trouble; to which his lordship replied, that he would not consent to present it to any one, except to the King in person; and that it was both the wish of himself and the sheriffs to do it in that way which would save His Majesty most trouble.

The secretary then said the King's pleasure had been already taken and expressed as to the mode of presenting it: when Mr. Sheriff Wood demanded an audience of His Majesty, which the secretary replied could not be granted, except upon some especial and expressed reason; and that no audience could be granted on a subject upon which the King had already expressed his pleasure.

Such was the report, when the patriots of the common-hall resolved to take the palace by storm; and again asserted their right in common-hall, to present petitions to the King sitting on his throne;

which they now declared they had waved on the former contest only out of personal feelings towards the sovereign. This was followed by the usual tirade of denial of rights, flagrant violation of right of petitioning, &c. &c. with the customary clamours against ministers, and directions to city members to institute inquiry into alleged abuses.

The would-be reformers, however, failed in their object, and were unable to insult the throne, which, it was then supposed, they would never be able to do by a corporate address.

During the summer of this year the King still pursued his custom of evening walks on the terrace at Windsor. Seven o'clock was his usual hour; when a small door, in one of the towers leading to the terrace, was thrown open, and the venerable monarch appeared, led by two attendants down a flight of steps, until he descended to the walk. He was then generally taken by each arm by the Princesses Augusta and Elizabeth, who paced with him on the terrace for about an hour; two bands of music being always in attendance, and playing alternately. His Majesty's usual dress upon these occasions was a blue coat and gilt buttons; the rest of his apparel white, with gold buckles, and the star of the Royal Order of the Garter. His hat, in order to shade his face, was of the clerical form, but ornamented with a cockade, and gold button and loop.

His personal appearance then was ruddy, and full; his voice sonorous; he conversed with cheer-

fulness, but with his usual rapidity, mingled with a little hesitation.

Though his hat was formed so as to shade his eyes, yet his actions sufficiently manifested his decayed, or decaying sight, as he always felt before him with his cane, especially in ascending or descending the steps; so that it was affecting to see him, though he himself always appeared cheerful when he spoke, and in other respects seemed as if nothing was the matter with him.

As any of the nobility or gentry, with whom he was in the habit of conversing, approached him, they were named by the princesses, when he always accosted them, condescendingly chatting on a variety of topics with the utmost freedom and hilarity.

When the time of retiring came, the King, who in ascending to his apartments in the castle had to pass the band of music on the steps, always touched his hat, and said in an audible voice, "Good night, gentlemen: I thank you."

This was peculiarly gratifying to all; and, indeed, during the entire period of his promenade, he seemed in perfect good-humour with the whole of the company; the only etiquette on the terrace being, that when His Majesty passed, the company withdrew on either side, the gentlemen merely taking off their hats, and all bows and curtsies being strictly dispensed with. Only one police officer was, at this period, in attendance, who merely carried a little switch, with which, like a rod

of office, he kept any curiously indiscreet individuals from pressing too close on the royal party, when the King stopped to converse; but even this was done, at the King's express desire, with the utmost urbanity and personal delicacy.

On some occasions the Queen accompanied him on the terrace, though not always; but the whole royal family were regular in their attendance at chapel every morning, when the King always seemed seriously engaged in his devotions.

After breakfast, except on Sunday, His Majesty generally rode out on horseback; and, considering his age and infirmity of vision, he still mounted his horse with almost his former agility.

In his ride he was always accompanied by two of the princesses, also on horseback, whilst some of the ladies of the court generally followed in a landau, or other open carriage. But in these excursions he was unable to direct his own horse; in consequence of which two of his attendants were always close by him, one of whom carried a little stick, with a hook at one end, holding on that part of the bridle next to the curb, so that if the horse should start or stumble, instant assistance might be given.

Towards the close of 1810, the heavy and heart-rending affliction, which for so many years separated a venerated sovereign from his people, was first observed to take place, hastened, if not actually brought on, by domestic sorrow for the loss of his beloved daughter, Amelia, on the second of Novem-

ber, the last act of whose filial tenderness evinced that it was not in the power of sickness, severely as it operated on her, to lessen the amiable temper of her mind; for, languid as she was at some periods, and tortured by pain at others, a desire of testifying her affection for the best of fathers was one of the strongest feelings of her heart.

She wished to present that royal parent with a token of her filial duty and affection; and she had the satisfaction of placing on his finger a ring, made by her own directions for the express purpose, containing a small lock of her hair, inclosed under a chrystal tablet, set round with a few sparks of diamonds. The effect of that present on His Majesty's heart, after so many trials during the progress of her illness, the public had too soon cause to lament; for the circumstance of an amiable and beloved daughter, in the prime of life, passing rapidly on to her dissolution, in the midst of the most acute sufferings, naturally preyed on the mind and the parental feelings of the good old King. Indeed, it seemed that his whole soul became absorbed in the fate of his daughter: he dwelt on it with harassing and weakening grief and despair; till at length the powers of his understanding gave way, and he fell a prey to that mental disorder, under which he had suffered so much about twenty years before.

On some occasions he kept the physicians, when they made their reports, two or three hours in minute inquiries: indeed, so restless was his anxiety,

HER ROYAL HIGHNESS

PRINCESS AMELIA,

BORN AUGT 7. 1783. — DIED NOVR 2. 1810.

that he was accustomed to receive a report every morning at seven o'clock, and afterwards every two hours of the day. At three o'clock regularly he went to her lodge to visit her; and the effect of these visits upon his heart was visible in his tears.

We may add, also, that every member of the royal family suffered much from the long and painful state of anxiety connected with the princess's illness, alternately raised into hope or plunged into despair. But still that was nothing in comparison with the feelings of the royal parent himself, who, from the very first, shewed that the lively interest which he took in these vicissitudes had an alarming influence upon his mind. Three weeks before the demise of his beloved child, he received the physician's afflicting report, that her life was so uncertain as not to be insured for an hour, though she might languish many days; a sentence on which his agitation became most manifest, as he passed some days in excessive grief, whilst at intervals his gleams of hope seemed to be equally elevated by flattering expectation.

But the best picture we can give of the venerable monarch at that moment was drawn by a worthy divine, after having asked a gentleman, who was in the habit of close and official attendance on the Princess Amelia, during her whole protracted illness, of what nature were the interviews and conversations held between her and His Majesty, and who replied: "They are of the most interest-

ing kind." The divine inquired: "Are they of a religious tendency?" "Yes," said the gentleman, "decidedly so; and the religion is exactly of that sort, which you, as a serious christian, would approve of. His Majesty speaks to his daughter of the only hope of a sinner being in the blood and righteousness of Jesus Christ. He examines her as to the integrity and strength of that hope in her own soul. The princess listens with calmness and delight to the conversation of her venerable parent, and replies to his questions in a very affectionate and serious manner. If you were present at one of those interviews, you would acknowledge with joy, that the gospel is preached in a palace, and that under highly affecting circumstances. Nothing," added he, "can be more striking than the sight of the King, aged and nearly blind, bending over the couch on which the princess lies, and speaking to her about salvation through Christ, as a matter far more interesting to them both than the highest privileges, and most magnificent pomps of royalty."

The effect which such conversations must have had upon the expiring princess is fully illustrated by the following stanzas, which, upon incontestable evidence, are known to have been the effusion of her parting spirit.

Unthinking, idle, wild, and young,
I laugh'd, and danc'd, and talk'd, and sung;
And proud of health, of freedom vain;
Dream'd not of sorrow, care, or pain;

Concluding, in those hours of glee,
That all the world was made for me.
But when the hour of trial came,
When sickness shook this trembling frame,
When folly's gay pursuits were o'er,
And I could dance and sing no more,
It then occurred how sad 'twould be,
Were this world only made for me.

We have shewn in a preceding anecdote, that the King's religious cares extended to every branch of his family; and that the good cause was not forgotten in the attention which he always paid to the progress of his amiable grand-daughter's education, as exemplified on one particular occasion. A gentleman, petitioning the late Princess Charlotte, on behalf of a condemned prisoner, after some conversation, she said, "I perceive, Sir, that you are a minister of religion: will you be so obliging as to inform me what will make a dying bed easy?" Much delighted with such a question, from one so young and so exalted, he spoke to her of the mediation of the Saviour; and when he had concluded the answer to the question, he begged permission to ask her royal highness one: this was granted. He then said, "What could have induced your royal highness to ask me such a question?" She replied, "My royal grandfather, from my very childhood, inculcated this principle, that I should attentively read the Bible, for in it I should find the way of salvation through Jesus."

Commensurate with this was his patriotic decla-

ration, that he hoped that every poor child in his dominions would learn to read the Bible, and should have a Bible to read.

It was on Thursday morning, the twenty-fifth of October, that the gentleman whose duty it was to be near his person felt it necessary to communicate to Mr. Perceval an obvious alteration that had taken place in his speech and deportment. On the ensuing day this became more manifest; and on the twenty-seventh it was so alarming, that a council was held, when the lord chancellor was sent for, and Dr. Heberden ordered to attend; at the same time directions being given that the physicians and medical attendants only should have access to the royal apartments.

So rapid was the progress of the disorder, that he was unable to appoint commissioners for the opening of parliament on the first of November, as originally proclaimed, or to prorogue it agreeably to the intended plan.

It being finally decided that His Majesty was unable to attend to business, ministers felt that it would be improper to apply for the sign-manual for the prorogation of parliament; and accordingly the proper steps were instantly taken to bring this unhappy circumstance before the grand council of the nation.

Parliament therefore met, and a series of occurrences took place, the most extraordinary to be found through the whole range of British history—

but with regard to our unhappy monarch all was now almost a blank; so that interesting as those events may have been, we feel ourselves confined by our original plan and limits to restrict our pages to those proceedings and results alone which bear most personally upon the venerated object of our biography.

On the first meeting of parliament an adjournment took place until the fifteenth of November, on which day it was stated by ministers, that the medical attendants expressed the most flattering and confident hopes that the King would in a very short space of time be able to resume the exercise of the royal functions; and parliament was accordingly adjourned to the twenty-ninth of the month, on the principle of deference to the judgment of the physicians, as well as delicacy towards the sovereign, before any attempt should be made to supply the deficiency of the executive.

This was the opinion of the heir-apparent, whose filial affection was not to be warped by party; and it was also the declared opinion of those who were known by the name of his "friends." The nation at large also highly approved of this cautious delicacy; though unhappily, during the progress of this adjournment, His Majesty's disorder, instead of relaxing in its strength, or assuming a more favorable aspect, put on the appearance of more obstinacy, and threatened to be of long continuance.

Notwithstanding this, the physicians very judici-

ously abstained from yielding to despair; and being examined by the privy council, a few days before the meeting of parliament, they expressed their opinions, that although His Majesty at that time was certainly incapable of exercising the royal functions, yet they had no doubt of his recovery, which they considered would not be long delayed; consequently a further adjournment was carried by a large majority for the thirteenth of December.

Unfortunately, during this third adjournment, the disorder of the King by no means abated; and it was at length generally understood that the malady had assumed a more violent character, so as not only to raise fears for his life, but also, if that life could be prolonged, to threaten a long and tedious, perhaps an incurable illness, both mental and bodily.

To dilate upon a subject so afflicting to humanity, so much at war with our best feelings, even in regard to the humblest of our fellow citizens, and much more so as respecting the first citizen of a free state, the constitutional monarch, the venerable father of his people, would neither be in good taste, nor consonant to loyal decorum, even if it were not rather beyond the limits which we have proposed for ourselves: it is sufficient, therefore, to state, that a careful investigation and medical examination took place at the meeting of parliament on the thirteenth of December, when such a chain of evidence came out, as at once proved the necessity of proceeding to the choice of a regent, upon the broad con-

stitutional principles so judiciously laid down, and so ably maintained, by Mr. Pitt, in the year 1788.

It is for the general historian of this period to examine the principles maintained by the two contending parties; the one insisting that the heir-apparent become regent de facto, and was so even previous to any regulations analogous to the coronation oath; the other insisting, that the choice of a regent, though it was now expedient that regent should be the heir-apparent, rested with parliament, whose duty it was to make such arrangements as the case required; and to establish such securities for the constitutional government, for the safety of the royal person, and a return to power in case of a return to health, as might be found proper: though more as a precedent for future times, than as absolutely necessary from the personal character of the successor.

Such were the broad constitutional features of the contest; but there were others connected with party, which may be briefly mentioned.

The whigs, certain of coming into power and place, were anxious for an unrestricted regency, because that would have been followed by an unrestricted ministry; by places for life and in reversion; by peerages; and, in short, by an unlimited enjoyment of the loaves and fishes; an enjoyment evidently much coveted by that strange anomalous mixture of old tories, of old and new whigs; of broad bottoms, and of "Prince's friends."

The tories, as they were called, though in reality there seems to have been a strange misnomer between the two parties, both in principle and in practice, were on the other head naturally anxious, even beyond mere constitutional propriety, to prevent their opponents from fixing themselves too strongly in their new seats, being well aware, that if left merely to the breadth of their own bottom they would soon topple and fall from their places.

We need not expatiate here upon the political events, immediately subsequent, up to the early part of 1811; upon the disputes amongst the whigs for pre-eminence between the Grey and Grenville parties: upon the judicious conduct of the Regent in retaining his father's ministers because they were the ministers of that father, a measure so pleasing to the great majority of the people of the united empire: it is sufficient to record the political arrangements which related more especially to the royal personage, whose afflictions were the cause of state measures hitherto without a precedent in the history of the realm. We proceed therefore briefly to state that the care of His Majesty's person was entrusted to his royal consort, who was to have the control of the household, with full powers of command in all things, but assisted by a council of the highest characters in the realm. His Majesty's privy purse and private property were also duly arranged and secured by the bill which passed both houses upon this occasion.

SECTION VIII.

1811—1820.

Illness.—Ceremonial of Regency.—Magnanimous Conduct of the Prince Regent.—Medical and Political Anecdotes.—Death of the Queen.—Royal Demise, &c.

The final ceremonial of the regency took place on the fifth of February, 1811, at Carlton-House, with much pomp and courtly etiquette, where the privy council was assembled, when his Royal Highness the Prince Regent took the oath :—"I do solemnly promise and swear that I will be faithful, and bear true allegiance to His Majesty King George :"—after which he took another, to execute his high office agreeable to the act in that case provided, and to administer, according to law, the power and authority vested in him thereby; also, that in all things, to the utmost of his power and ability, he would consult and maintain the safety, honor, and dignity of His Majesty, and the welfare of his people.

His royal highness next made, in a most audible voice, the declaration drawn up by act of parliament in the reign of Charles the Second, entitled "an act for the more effectual preserving the King's person and government, by disabling Papists from

sitting in either houses of parliament; which he also subscribed, giving in at the same time a certificate of his having received the sacrament of the Lord's Supper at the Chapel Royal a few days previous, which was deposited by the keeper of the records in the archives of the nation.

It was observed on this occasion, that the Regent's conduct was dignified in the extreme; and divested of every species of personal or party feeling.

The public hopes of His Majesty's recovery were still very sanguine; even so far as to look forward to his ultimate recovery: for the Queen, and other branches of the family, were in February permitted to visit him; and he had appeared several times on the terrace at Windsor, seemingly in possession of his original composure.

Indeed, the very day after the Prince Regent (the twelfth) had notified to Mr. Perceval his intention of retaining his father's ministers, his royal highness set off for Windsor; and his arrival being notified to the King, he instantly expressed an earnest wish to see the Prince in his apartments, when an interview took place, very affecting in the first instance, but terminating in a manner highly gratifying to both of these illustrious personages. The interview lasted upwards of two hours; and concluded with confirming his royal highness's hopes of the speedy convalescence of his royal parent.

In the month of March, such improvements had

taken place in the royal health, that it was no longer considered necessary to issue daily bulletins; besides which, all the medical attendants were withdrawn from their day attendance, and the pages resumed their accustomed functions about His Majesty's person.

Though in the ensuing month His Majesty had made material progress towards recovery, yet he was still declared by his physicians not to be quite restored to such a state of health as would admit of his resumption of the royal functions. It was said, however, that in a very few weeks that resumption would take place; and some even went so far as to speculate, though evidently without foundation, upon a partial change in the cabinet.

Circumstances in May certainly justified those progressive hopes, for on the twentieth His Majesty was able to take his customary airing on horseback in Windsor Park, and repeated it several times afterwards; though his return to state affairs was very judiciously prolonged: for very shortly afterwards his disorder suddenly took an unfavorable turn, though not to the dissolution of all hope; as his Royal Highness the Prince Regent felt himself bound to lay it down as a principle not to dispose of any place which might become vacant, until some final determination should appear justifiable in regard to the health of the afflicted monarch.

On the sixth of April, the members of the Queen's council gave in a report, in which they stated that the indisposition with which His Majesty was afflicted at the passing of the regency act did still so far exist, that he was not yet restored to such a state of health as to be capable of resuming the royal authority; but they added, that the unhappy sufferer appeared to have made material progress towards recovery since the passing of the act, and that all the physicians joined in expectation of his final restoration.

Three months afterwards the official report again declared that recovery had not yet taken place with regard to mental derangement; but that the King's bodily health was very little disordered. It was added, that a change had recently taken place in the system of management, owing to an accession of mental disorder; but that an improvement had certainly been manifested since that alteration. It appeared, however, that there was no difference of opinion amongst the royal physicians respecting ultimate recovery; and, indeed, it was confessed that the ill-fated monarch was still strictly and necessarily shut up from that freedom of approach which on former occasions had been permitted.

An exacerbation of the disorder seems now to have taken place; for in a subsequent report of the fifth of October, it was not only stated that the King's health was yet unfit for royal authority, but that, although his bodily health was not much

deteriorated, yet his mental condition was much aggravated. It was now added that all the medical men, except one, had given up their absolute expectations of recovery; though, from the vigor of His Majesty's constitution, and general bodily health, some of them did not expressly despair of ultimate convalescence.

To describe the exact progress of the unhappy malady, would now be as little interesting to public curiosity, as indecorous to public feeling; it is sufficient to state that the violence of the relapse staggered the hopes even of the most sanguine of the medical attendants, though the state of bodily health suggested no fears for his life: indeed, his constitution must have been of the best stamina to resist the copious bleedings, and violent opiates, which it became necessary to administer, independent of a second paralytic attack which seized him in the month of July.

Prayers for recovery, which had been for some time discontinued, were now resumed in all the churches and chapels throughout the empire; indeed, very soon afterwards, all the symptoms became so alarming, that it was even thought necessary to prepare and arrange all the ceremonials used in the proclamation of a new sovereign; and the due notices were issued to the proper officers for that purpose.

At this period of awful suspense, it was gratifying to understand, in the month of September, that

the unhappy monarch was now become more tranquil and composed; and that he experienced occasional intervals, in which he could recognize those about him, and was also susceptible of the consolations of religion: notwithstanding which, however, it was soon officially announced that all his medical attendants, except one, considered his ultimate recovery as extremely improbable, though they did not entirely despair of that happy event, hoping much from the remaining vigour of his bodily health and constitution.

Towards the close of the year, in consequence of increasing debility and irritation, it was resolved, at a meeting of the Queen's council, to call in the assistance of the younger Dr. Willis, who, on inspecting the state of his royal patient, was said to have declared his opinion, that in the then state of the nervous system no benefit was to be expected from mental management—an opinion in which the other physicians generally coincided; and likewise further confirmed by the official reports in the early part of 1812, and also by the evidence of all the physicians, when examined before committees of both houses of parliament.

During the whole of these proceedings, the duty of the physicians was a most delicate one, and which they performed with extraordinary ability, and in the most honorable manner. In this Sir Henry Halford was conspicuous; and we have seen a well-informed publication, which observes, that

this last attack of His Majesty's illness has, perhaps, shown Sir Henry's address and talents to more advantage than on any former occasion. "The medical attendance on the royal sufferer has generally been directed by the ministerial influence of the day. The authority of Lord Thurlow, in his first illness, committed him to the charge of Dr. Willis, whose system of coercion was carried on in his own way, while the other physicians were mere lookers-on. The severity of this half-medical character made a powerful impression on the royal mind; and the name, after his recovery, vibrated on his nerves with a harsh recollection, which he could at all times but ill disguise, when pronounced before him. The character of the minister who recommended him, and that of the physician himself, seem to have been cast in the same stern mould. In the final attack, the removal of Dr. Willis, and the recollection of past severity, gave a new feature to the medical attendance. Sir Henry took a lead in the arrangements; and conducted himself with such delicacy, prudence, and good sense, as to gain equally the esteem of the Queen's cabinet, as of the opposition at Carlton-House. As a mark of the Regent's sentiments and favor, he was appointed one of his physicians in ordinary, and equally preferred in his attendance upon him, as he had been upon the sovereign.

"The case of His Majesty was one of that doubt-

ful nature, on which no accurate judgment could be formed. For a long time, prudence required that the physicians should lean to the favorable side; and the hopes and fears of the nation were equally interested in their decision. The former history of the complaint, the natural constitution of the royal sufferer, were circumstances in favor of amendment; while, on the contrary, the age of the patient, and his peculiar feelings and situation as a sovereign, unaccustomed to control, equally preponderated on the other side. So long as hopes could be cherished, the physicians were bound to hold out a favorable issue to the wishes of the nation, and not, by ill-timed anticipation, to throw a gloom over the thinking part of the state, till time had prepared them for the event. The business, therefore, under Sir Henry, was conducted with much prudence and judgment; and the examination of the physicians shewed much cordiality of opinion, and matured consideration. The political arrangements that have since taken place have discovered the advantage of this temporizing plan, which it was found essential to pursue; and the plain dealing of another physician was even harmonised into this courtly line of behaviour at the time.

" The continuance of ministers in power may be considered as owing in part to this circumspect behaviour of the physicians, which did not even

at the last entirely banish the ray of hope, or preclude the idea that the sovereign might be brought forward. Sir Henry thus shewed himself not less adroit as a courtier than eminent as a physician; and now stands at the acmé of royal favor, as in public estimation."

1812—1820.

The year 1812 opened with very little hopes of the King's resumption of his royal functions; as the report, on the eighth of January, acknowledged the positive continuation of the mental disorder to its former extent; and, though certainly not in a worse state absolutely, yet that all the physicians in attendance then agreed in stating that they considered a final and complete recovery improbable, but under certain modifications of hope or despair as to the possibility of that event.

Still must it be remembered, that at intervals His Majesty was capable of attending to general politics, and even of giving very just opinions on the probable success of the operations in Spain. Indeed, the physicians agreed that there was no fatuity in His Majesty's case, though his blindness was certainly unfavorable to recovery, because it was thence more difficult to manage him.

At the period in question, also, the consciousness of regal state gave a peculiarity to his complaint, which increased the medical difficulties; yet, upon

the whole, his perception was good, though accompanied by a multitude of erroneous floating ideas. His memory too was firm and tenacious: he detailed anecdotes accurately, but could not exercise judgment; his powers of conversation were still strong, but frequently manifested the deep effect which the suppression of royal authority had made upon his mind.

Such was his state when the new arrangements took place; which were, that the household at Windsor should be constituted out of those who had attended His Majesty previous to his illness, with the groom of the stole at the head of the establishment; the vice-chamberlain to act as deputy; four lords and four grooms of the bed-chamber; a master of the robes; and seven equerries; in all twenty-eight. The care of His Majesty, with the superintendence of the household, was left completely to the Queen, to whom was also given ten thousand pounds for extra expenses; whilst the King's household was estimated at one hundred thousand pounds.

In 1813, the fortunate results of the continental warfare once more restored Hanover to the House of Brunswick; but in 1814 it was erected into a kingdom, in order to preserve the balance of diplomacy with the other German states at the General Diet: and soon after the imperial and royal visit to this country took place, an occurrence which would have afforded to the secluded monarch the highest

satisfaction, had he been permitted by Providence to enjoy it.

It was said indeed at the time that he was aware of the circumstance, and wished much to see the two royal personages; but his situation would not admit of it, as it was upwards of two years since His Majesty had been shaved. His beard was very long. His usual dress was a silk nightgown, in which, from his age and physical infirmities, he reminded the spectator of the person and appearance of King Lear. Her Majesty visited him once a-week; but the princesses had not seen him for a considerable time. During the progress of the war the news of the day was read to him, but latterly his want of sight had been further aggravated by total deafness.—His small stock of intellectual enjoyment had been thus greatly reduced, as he could no longer hear any news, nor amuse himself with the harpsicord, of which he was very fond, and on which he played with taste. As might be naturally expected, the recovery of Hanover gave him peculiar pleasure. After the battle of Albuera, and before the lancers were introduced into our army, he repeatedly recommended them, and stated, that, in that improvement, the British army would be complete. His Majesty's memory still continued unimpaired.

It has been mentioned also, that the venerable monarch was once seen administering the sacrament to himself, saying, "This is the body of our

Lord Jesus Christ, which was given for me, to preserve my body and soul unto everlasting life. I take this, and eat it, in remembrance that Christ died for me, and feed on him with my heart by faith, with thanksgiving." In the same manner he took the wine, saying, "The blood of our Lord Jesus Christ, which was shed for me, and I am thankful;" and concluded with a short prayer. During this interesting scene, the gentleman whose turn it was to attend the royal personage was deeply affected with this solemn sight, and by some means made a little noise. The King called out in his usual quick way, "Who is there, who is there?" The person said, "It is I," (mentioning his name) at which the King seemed glad that no other person was present.

In the summer he had some lucid intervals. The Queen desired to be informed when that was the case—she was so; and on entering the room, she found him singing a hymn, and accompanying it on the harpsichord. When he had finished it, he knelt down and prayed aloud for Her Majesty, then for his family, and then for the nation, concluding with a prayer for himself, that it might please God to avert his heavy calamity from him, but if not, to give him resignation to submit to it. He then burst into tears, and his reason again fled.

One morning when the passing-bell tolled at Windsor, His Majesty inquired who was dead. His attendants at first did not answer him, but on his

THEIR ROYAL HIGHNESSES

THE PRINCESS CHARLOTTE AND

PRINCE LEOPOLD.

repeating the question, they said, " Please your Majesty, Mrs. S——."—" Mrs. S.——!" rejoined the King, " she was a linen-draper, and lived at the corner of ——— street (naming the street): aye, she was a good woman, and brought up her family in the fear of God—she is gone to Heaven—I hope I shall soon follow her."

We have also seen it stated, that about this time the Princess Elizabeth wrote a letter to a lady in Suffolk, who had formerly been her governess, in which the following sentiments were expressed: " If any thing can make us more easy under the calamity which it has pleased Heaven to inflict on us, it is the apparent happiness that my revered father seems to feel. He considers himself no longer an inhabitant of this world; and often, when he has played one of his favorite tunes, observes that he was very fond of it when he was in the world. He speaks of the Queen and all his family, and hopes they are doing well now, for he loved them very much when he was with them."

On the royal birth-day, in 1815, the statue of His Majesty, which was voted by the corporation of London to be placed in their great council chamber, was exhibited for the first time with all due civic ceremony: it was placed upon a pedestal twelve feet in height, and represents the King in his royal robes, holding the scroll of an address in his left hand; his right hand extended, as if returning an answer to an address.

The inscription on the pedestal merits insertion.

GEORGE THE THIRD,
born and bred a Briton;
endeared to a brave, free, and loyal people,
by his public virtues;
by his pre-eminent example
of private worth in all the relations of domestic life:
by the uniform course of unaffected piety,
and entire submission to the will of heaven.
The wisdom and firmness
of his character and councils
enabled him so to apply the resources of his empire,
so to direct the native energies of his subjects,
that he maintained the dignity of his crown,
preserved inviolate the constitution in church and state,
and secured the commerce and prosperity
of his dominions,
during a long period of unexampled difficulty;
in which the deadly contagion of French principles,
and the domineering aggressions of French power,
had nearly dissolved the frame,
and destroyed the independence
of every other government and nation in Europe.
The lord mayor, aldermen, and commons,
of the City of London,
have erected this statue, in testimony
of their undeviating loyalty and grateful attachment
to the best of Kings,
in the fifty-fifth year of his reign,
A. D. 1815.
Birch, Mayor.

On the twenty-third of November, 1816, the venerable monarch completed a reign of fifty-six years and twenty-nine days, being one day longer than the entire reign of Henry the Third, the longest reign since the Norman accession. On the preceding birth-day, His Majesty had attained the patriarchal age of seventy-eight years.

Respecting his health at that period, we may state that at times he was tolerably composed. The number of persons specially appointed to attend him by the doctors were reduced from six to two, and his principal pages admitted, and had been for some time, to wait on him, as when he enjoyed good health. His Majesty dined at half past one o'clock, and he in general ordered his dinner; he invariably had roast beef upon his table on Sundays. He dressed for dinner, wore his orders, &c. His Majesty, together with his attendants, occupied a suite of thirteen rooms, which are situated on the north side of Windsor Castle, under the state rooms. Five of the thirteen rooms were wholly devoted to the personal use of the King. Doctor John Willis slept in the room adjoining the royal apartments, to be in readiness to attend His Majesty: every morning, after breakfast, about half past ten o'clock, he waited on the Queen, to report to her the state of the King's health; he afterwards proceeded to the princesses, and other branches of the royal family, who happened to be at Windsor, and made a similar report to them. In general, Her Majesty

returned with Dr. Willis down a private staircase leading into the King's suite of rooms, and conversed with her royal husband. The Queen was the only person admitted to discourse with the King, except the medical gentlemen and His Majesty's personal attendants. In Dr. John Willis's absence, Dr. Robert Willis, his brother, took his place. The other medical gentlemen came in rotation, to be in close attendance upon the King. The suite of rooms which His Majesty and his attendants occupied had the advantage of very pure and excellent air; and His Majesty would not have been prevented from occasionally walking on the terrace, but he declined it, owing to the bad state of his eyes, which did not enable him to enjoy the views. Two lords and grooms of the King's bed-chamber, his equerries, and other attendants, were occasionally in attendance at Windsor Castle, the same as if the King had enjoyed good health. Two King's messengers went from the secretary of state's office daily to Windsor, and returned to London, as they had been accustomed to do for a number of years past. The messenger who arrived at noon brought a daily account of the King's health to the Prince Regent and the members of the Queen's council. His Majesty had never been left since his malady without one of the royal family being in the castle, and a member of the Queen's council, appointed under the Regency Act.

Amongst the various ideas which now floated

across his imagination was one respecting his own death, as he several times mentioned to his attendants—"I must have a new suit of clothes; and I will have them black, in memory of George the Third."

We know not whether he was informed of the disappointment of his views respecting the marriage of his royal grand-daughter with the Prince of Orange; but we are convinced that he would not have disapproved of her union, which took place this year. Too soon, alas! the nuptial bed was exchanged for the silent grave!

During the summer of 1817, His Majesty was generally in good health and tranquillity, but his mental aberration was nevertheless in full force. It was indeed also reported that the unhappy monarch had completely lost his hearing, as well as his sight; but that was not correct; nay, it was now said that, as if Providence had kindly intended to compensate for the loss of vision, his sense of hearing was become, not merely quick, but might even be called discriminative.

When in a composed state of mind, he could readily distinguish, and tell by their footsteps, the name of any one approaching or passing him; and, as but few were allowed to see him, he frequently amused himself, as they approached, with calling them by name.

Even at that period of life his habits had not, by the usual consequences of infirmity or old age,

undergone any material change. He now rose as early as in former times—breakfasted at eight or soon after—dined at one, continuing partial to mutton or beef; and, when in a tranquil state, generally ordered what his table should be furnished with.

The principal page was always in attendance; as also the subaltern assistants of the medical establishment. A sunk walk had been made adjoining to his suite of rooms; but for some time he had declined walking even there, on the principle it would be no gratification to him, being deprived of sight. The rooms which His Majesty and attendants then occupied consisted of thirteen, extremely well ventilated, so that there could be no deficiency of air and exercise within doors.

When the Queen was at Windsor, also, she generally visited her afflicted consort about ten in the morning, but always attended by Dr. John Willis.

In this state passed the hours of the illustrious and venerable personage, once the glory of his family, the pride of his subjects, who was not dead, and yet could not be said to partake of the joys or the affections of his kindred or his people.

Withdrawn from all eyes, but those that watched to supply his necessities—in silence and in darkness—to him there was neither sun, nor moon, nor empire, nor wife, nor children, nor subjects, except at intervals, when the recollection of the past must

always have embittered the feelings of the present. He may be said indeed to have then been alone in the midst of the living, and almost as far removed from them as from the dead.

Circumstanced as he was, even in his most tranquil moments, the little world in which he dwelt was a solitude peopled only by imagination; but it was said, no doubt with truth, that the supposed inhabitants of it were not those that haunt the guilty mind, even when reason is not overthrown. It was very justly observed, and confidently stated, that, agreeable to his prevalent ideas, ministering angels were the companions of his thoughts, in the loneliness of that circle by which he was cut off from rational intercourse either with this world or the next. Yet was he not forsaken in his hoary hairs, nor in his deep humiliation, by him, whose loving kindness is better than life and all its pleasures, if all its pleasures could be enjoyed for ever. A creature, an intellectual creature, may certainly be debarred from communion with every thing in the universe, and every being except the Creator, as was exemplified in his case; for it was asserted that he still was happily conscious of that presence which is the hope of earth, and the joy of heaven.

He was thus relieved too from a knowledge of sad events in his own family, events that would have grieved his eyes and wrung his heart, had reason been preserved to him to the end of his lengthened

days; but from this the hand of Divine Mercy, whose ways are inscrutable, had relieved him!

In 1817 died the amiable Princess Charlotte—the delight of her venerable grandfather, who was always charmed with her youthful acquirements.

"Alas! how changed the scene! How delighted, had heaven so willed, would that revered monarch, then happily unable to share in the general affliction, for even the most awful behests of Providence are often sources of happiness—how delighted would he have been with her further developement of genius and of virtue; for each succeeding year opened fresh buds of taste and truth to the genial ray of public approbation and of private affection. Our loss indeed seemed irreparable; and the time in which it occurred calculated to give it the full effect of its awful character. It was when Europe was reposing in tranquillity, after a state of warfare prolonged beyond all former example: it was when the military glory of our country had reached an height unparalleled in former periods of our history, and when it was committed to her to strike the decisive blow which should terminate a conflict upon the issue of which the liberties of mankind were suspended: it was when the earth had brought forth her fruits, when the channels of commerce were again opening, when the hopes of the husbandman and of the merchant were alike reviving: it was when the political importance of Britain was most deeply felt, and her alliances with surrounding

potentates most firmly cemented: it was when the whole empire were looking with joyful anticipation to the prosperous issue of an event most earnestly desired—the pledge of domestic felicity of the most endearing character, the confirmation of the reigning dynasty by new and extended relations, the birth of the future heir to a crown consecrated to freedom, and pre-eminent among the nations: it was at this flattering moment that the blow descended, which annihilated our fond and confident expectations, and swept at once two princes to an untimely sepulchre."

The good old King had always been particularly kind to the clergy connected with Windsor Castle: and during his illness the Queen faithfully fulfilled his intentions; an instance of which occurred about this time on the death of the Rev. F. Roper, one of the minor canons. By the express desire of Her Majesty, he was attended by the royal physicians, and supplied with every necessary from the Palace. A widow and ten children, the youngest only a week old, were left destitute by his death. The Queen immediately caused it to be intimated to Mrs. Roper, that she might rely on her protection, and commenced a subscription with the sum of five hundred pounds, which amounted to two thousand pounds the same day. Her Majesty subsequently called on Mrs. Roper, and expressed her intention to provide for her daughters, and to

request of the Prince Regent to do the same for her sons.*

* Her Majesty this year also lost a valuable servant in Jean Andre De Luc, a member of the Royal Societies of London and Paris, &c. He was born in 1726, at Geneva, and was many years reader to Her Majesty. His whole life was incessantly devoted to the acquisition and advancement of knowledge. His favorite pursuit, and that which principally raised him to the high reputation which has attached to his name, was the investigation of the arrangement and composition of the globe; a science which is greatly indebted to his labors for its present triumph over its former obscurity. Mr. De Luc was not a mere theorist in the establishment of geological principles. He visited most of the countries in Europe in the course of his long and industrious life, and his researches had been assisted by the mutual exertions of the most learned and scientific men of his time. The principal object of Mr. De Luc was to corroborate the evidence of the Holy Scriptures, by plain and demonstrable facts. In this he was eminently successful. He has left another memorial of his learning and piety, in a convincing and affectionate address to the Jews on the mission of Christ. Mr. De Luc has published a Treatise on Geology, as well as six volumes of Geological Travels. His correspondence with most of the learned societies of Europe was as valuable as it was extensive. For several years past Mr. De Luc had been confined to his room by the infirmities of age; but his scientific ardor was unabated, and he was, within a short period of his death, diligently employed in the composition or arrangement of observations on his principal pursuit. Mr. De Luc was most amiable in his private character, and ever anxious to encourage and assist the young votary of science by his friendship and his advice. He died after enduring many years of bodily privation, during which he continued to pursue with unextinguished ardor his electro-chemical researches till within a few months of his end; and

The illness and expected demise of the Queen produced a bill for amending the Regency Act with respect to the custody of His Majesty's person, in 1818, which, after providing for the increase of the Queen's council, proceeded to enact that in case parliament should be separated at the time of Her Majesty's demise, a proclamation should then be issued for calling it together in sixty days: but if there should be no parliament, then the day of meeting to be regulated by the day named in the writ of summons, or within sixty days.

To follow the various stages of Her Majesty's disorder, from its assuming a dangerous aspect to the termination of her existence, would afford little gratification. It is sufficient to say, that as the disease advanced in virulence, each interval of repose became shorter than the preceding one; each succeeding paroxysm more acute; each struggle more nearly mortal, till the hand of death put an end at once to her misery and life.

The first change of a serious nature in the state of the Queen was such as to cause Sir H. Halford to write to the Prince Regent to hasten his departure from London. His Royal Highness sent for the Duke of York to accompany him. They re-

retaining to the last the full enjoyment of his intellectual faculties, may truly be said, like his illustrious cotemporary, Dr. Black, "to have spun his thread of life to the last fibre; and even this seemed scarcely to have been broken, but only to have ended."

mained at Kew, when Her Majesty having somewhat recovered, their royal highnesses returned to town. The Queen passed a disturbed night; but only similar to what she had frequently done for some time before, and the physicians sent off an account to the Regent a little before eight o'clock the ensuing morning, to that effect. In two hours afterwards a serious change for the worse took place, and Sir H. Halford sent off an express to the Regent and Duke of York. Their Royal Highnesses arrived at Kew Palace before half-past twelve, and instantly repaired to the chamber of their expiring parent, who was perfectly sensible. The scene was truly distressing. The Prince Regent had the trying task of supporting her in her last moments, assisted by the Duke of York and his royal sisters. When Her Majesty breathed her last, the princesses were supported, with difficulty, to a private room, where the Regent continued several hours, affording them every possible comfort.

Her Majesty was in her seventy-fifth year, having been born on the nineteenth of May, 1744. The many great and exemplary virtues which so eminently distinguished Her Majesty throughout her long life, were the object of universal esteem and admiration amongst all classes of His Majesty's subjects, and rendered the death of this illustrious and most excellent princess an unspeakable loss to the whole nation.

Her Majesty made a will. It appeared that she

was not possessed of three thousand pounds of money at her demise, and that she had no property in the funds. She bequeathed her diamonds to be divided equally among the princesses her daughters, with some distinctions; and a handsome bequest to Lady Harcourt, who had been always admitted to the honor of her intimate confidence; with smaller legacies to others, who had been longest in her Majesty's service. All the under servants have pensions from the public, according to their ranks.

It is somewhat remarkable, that during the last century, only two queens of England died, viz. Queen Anne and Queen Caroline; the former in 1714, and the latter in 1737. It is yet more remarkable, that the only King born in that century was his present Majesty. The consort of George the First never was Queen of England. Her unhappy story is too well known to require a repetition of it.

The month of November has been mournfully distinguished by the fall of several princesses of the House of Brunswick. Queen Caroline, the consort of George the Second, died November 20th, 1737; the Princess Amelia, daughter of his late Majesty, departed this life November 2nd, 1810; the idol of the nation, the late Princess Charlotte, breathed her last November 6th, 1817; and we have to add to the sad list that of her late Majesty Queen Charlotte, who thus closed her mortal career November 17th, 1818.

Agreeable to act of parliament, the Duke of York was appointed to the office of custos of the royal person, as held by Her Majesty; and great care was taken not to afflict the unhappy monarch by informing him of the loss of his faithful partner.

In regard to his health at this period, we have seen it stated that His Majesty was perfectly blind; and occupied a long suite of rooms, through which he was continually strolling. Several piano-fortes and harpsicords were placed at certain intervals; and the monarch frequently stopped at them, run over a few notes of Handel's Oratorios, and proceeded on his walk. He dined chiefly on cold meats, and frequently ate standing. He had a silk plaid dress; and would sometimes stop and address himself to a noble duke, or lord; thus holding a colloquy, and furnishing their answers. The King still suffered his beard to grow two or three days, or more, seldom, however, exceeding three days. His hair was perfectly white. The doctors Willis attended with the other physicians, but not with the privacy of the King. He was quite cheerful in his conduct and conversation, ate very heartily, and enjoyed good bodily health. He changed his dress sometimes as fancy directed, and generally wore in a morning a blue *robe-de-chambre*, held round the body by a belt. His Majesty looked well, and walked with a firm, and sometimes quick, step up and down the five apartments allotted to him: but he was now totally insensible to all affairs of state,

and also to the family arrangements which took place in consequence of the marriages of the four Royal Dukes, of Clarence, Kent, Cumberland, and Cambridge.

Soon after the Queen's demise, the following bulletin was issued :—

"Windsor Castle, Dec. 5.—His Majesty's tranquillity has been undisturbed throughout the last month, and His Majesty's health has been good, but his disorder continues in the same state."

It is hardly possible to conceive any thing more affecting, or more distressing, than this description of the tranquillity of the King during a visitation of domestic calamity, which would have touched him so nearly, had he possessed his reason. Thick straw had been laid down in the inner court of Windsor Castle, to prevent the sound of the funeral carriages reaching his ears.

But the precautions were needless ; and his long-loved consort was deposited in the tomb where the unconscious royal husband was so soon to follow her.

Still did His Majesty's apparent health offer no symptom of speedy dissolution, if we may judge from a subsequent bulletin :—

"Windsor Castle, Feb. 6th, 1819.—His Majesty has enjoyed an uninterrupted state of good bodily health, and has been very tranquil during the last month, but his disorder remains unchanged."

And even at a later date we find a statement equally favorable.

"Windsor Castle, Oct. 3rd.—His Majesty continues in a very tranquil state of mind, and in good bodily health, but without any diminution of his disorder."

From this period little more is left us but to cull from the journals of the day, and from other authorities, such particulars as best describe the state of the royal patient; amongst which we find it recapitulated, that the strength of the King's recollection remained unimpaired almost to the last, but the aberration of his reason was never in any considerable degree diminished. In the earliest stages of his malady an experiment had been made to recall to his recollection, and direct his attention to, public affairs; but it was soon laid aside, as it was found to create that irritation which is the leading symptom of mental derangement. His Majesty's recollection of past events was, indeed, always extremely exact; and the occasional sketches of persons and characters, which formed great part of his soliloquies, afforded the strongest proof of the activity of his mental powers, which were most strikingly exemplified in a particular instance, when the conversation turned upon the merits of a late Lord Sandwich, whom His Majesty designated by the term *Jemmy Twitcher*, a nick-name with which that nobleman had been marked during the American war.

We find it stated, on good authority, that the total blindness and increasing deafness of His Majesty gave great facility to his medical and other attendants in the performance of their duties. Until very lately it had been his usual custom to dress and undress himself without any assistance; indeed, he had a particular aversion to any of his domestics assisting him; and hence arose the circumstance of his beard having latterly grown extremely long. It was recently with the greatest reluctance that he permitted the hair-dresser to perform his operation; and he had frequently in consequence let his beard grow for several days, and sometimes weeks; until it became unpleasant to him, and even then he submitted very unwillingly to the necessity of removing it.

Separated as he was thus from his loyal and affectionate subjects, yet George the Third was not forgotten even amidst the glories of the Prince Regent's administration: nay, even in foreign nations, the deep tinge of his misfortunes appears to have thrown a degree of solemn obscurity over his fate, which made his story interesting to all, and to none more than those who once had been his almost implacable enemies. In this point of view we cannot refuse admittance to the following sketch of our departed monarch, from a French paper, which, instead of former diatribes of Corsican rudeness and insolence, observes, that "the following circumstances are related respecting the last years of the

life of George the Third :—" That august old man was long deprived of sight, and wore a long floating beard. He wandered constantly through his apartments amidst the phantoms of his imagination, which represented to him all the beings that were dear to him. He spoke to them, and replied to what he thought he heard said. He also frequently remained for hours together in a state of complete depression, his head resting on both arms. He would then suddenly recover, and believe himself among celestial spirits ; he would rush forward, and might have fallen with such force as to cause serious consequences, had not the precaution been taken of surrounding the walls of his apartments with cushions. Formerly he used to collect his servants, and make them sit down in the room ; then, fancying himself in his parliament, he used to speak during a long time with vehemence, and at last fall into a kind of delirium. When the King took his meals, which were served to him twice a-day, he imagined himself surrounded at his table by his family ; and, as in deprivation of reason, he had preserved the taste of his youth for music, he made himself be led to his piano-forte, or ordered a violin to be brought to him, and executed from memory pieces of music with a precision which, considering the state of his mind, was surprising."

That this statement is perfectly correct we cannot vouch ; but it agrees in many points with well-ascertained facts : and we may further add to it,

that the royal patient seemed never to forget that he was still a king; and this was strikingly observable in his demeanor towards his attendants, exhibiting the same mixture of dignity and affability which had always characterised his conduct to all around him.

On the twenty-fifth of October, 1819, our venerable and afflicted sovereign entered into the sixtieth year of his reign, a period longer than that in which any of His Majesty's predecessors in Britain had occupied the throne. Henry the Third reigned in England fifty-seven years, and James the sixth in Scotland fifty-eight years: but the former was only nine years of age when he succeeded to the monarchy; and the latter was an infant; when, in consequence of the extorted resignation of his mother, he became king; while George the Third was of legitimate age on his accession to the sovereignty of Great Britain and Ireland. Of the peers of Scotland at His Majesty's accession, only the Duke of Gordon, born 1743, who inherited the title 1752, is alive. The twenty judges of the courts of session and exchequer in Scotland have been exactly three times renewed during this reign; the appointments to the bench being sixty in number, exclusive of two promotions of puisne judges to the president's chair. Of the members of the faculty of advocates at the accession, four are alive, viz. Robert Craig, of Riccartoun, and Robert Berry, both admitted in 1754; and Sir Ilay Campbell, and James Ferguson,

of Pitfour, the present members of Parliament for Aberdeenshire, both admitted in 1757. Of the society of writers to the signet, at the accession, only one, Cornelius Elliott, of Woodlee, is in existence. Of the peers of England and Ireland, at the commencement of this reign, five are alive, the Earl, now Marquis of Drogheda, the Earl of Carlisle, Earl Fitzwilliam, Viscount Netterville, and Viscount Bulkely, all of whom were under age at the accession, with the exception of the Marquis of Drogheda, now in his ninetieth year, and at the head of the generals of the army.

The venerated monarch may thus be said to have been almost left alone in an empire, which had been so long under his paternal sway: yet even then all hopes of mental recovery were not entirely lost; for although a gentleman, who, by particular favor, saw him in the month of November, describes him as sitting in a satin night-gown, lined with fur, his head reclined upon a table, evidently unconscious of every thing, still were there reports of flashes of intellect like recovery; but too soon followed with hints of a decline of constitution, and even some surmises of an approaching demise. It is a fact, however, that a few months ago the organs of his constitution seemed quite unimpaired; and it was remarked, that few lives promised a surer duration for several years, notwithstanding His Majesty's advanced age; but about December a gradual loss of strength and flesh were perceptible;

since which time the medical gentlemen attendant on him considered themselves bound to prepare the public mind, by alluding to the infirmity of his age in the monthly bulletin. A slight bowel attack soon after gave his medical attendants some alarm, and although it lasted but two days, debilitated His Majesty. No actual bodily malady, however, existed from that time until the latter end of January, 1820, when the renewal of the bowel complaint, which shewed that the bodily functions had lost their power, announced a probability that the King's dissolution could not be very far distant. Every thing that he took passed through him as he received it, so that nature had become entirely exhausted, and refused her office. In this state it is not surprising that the decay should be rapid; that the retentive powers only a short time before his dissolution lost their command; and that the royal patient sunk without a struggle.

We have seen it indeed asserted, that his emaciation had then produced a most extraordinary change, not only in the loss of flesh, and reduction of his once vigorous frame; but had brought on a perfect attenuation of the whole system, with such an absolute change of countenance, that scarcely a single feature could be recognized by the most familiar observers.

The first official bulletin of 1820 was to the following effect:—

"Windsor Castle, Jan. 1st.—His Majesty's dis-

order has undergone no sensible alteration. His Majesty's bodily health has partaken of some of the infirmities of age, but has been generally good during the last month."

This official notice, however, was very far from producing the impression of immediate danger; and indeed, compared with the reports that had previously obtained circulation, tended rather to induce the belief of a reinstatement. All the intelligence we have been able to collect, from oral information and other sources, leads us to the conviction that it was not till several days had elapsed, from the publication of the bulletin, that his late Majesty's symptoms became a source of peculiar anxiety and solicitude to his medical attendants. At that period his disorder returned with greater violence; and, in despite of the utmost skill of his physicians, several of whom remained in constant attendance, continued from day to day to make visible inroads on the health and strength of the royal patient. Still, however, His Majesty was not considered in danger till Thursday, the twenty-seventh of January, preceding his death. His present Majesty was then indisposed, and was confined to his room; he was therefore prevented from attending to pay those attentions to his expiring parent, which he anxiously desired, and which he had manifested upon numerous occasions, in spite of all the trammels and toils of faction.

In the meantime public anxiety was considerably

excited by verbal reports from the vicinity of the royal residence; for to the inhabitants of Windsor, who had opportunities of observing the increased vigilance that pervaded all the movements about the castle, the suspicion soon infused itself that an unfavorable change had taken place in the health of His Majesty. The lords in waiting, who were Lord St. Helens and Lord Henley, were noticed to remain longer at their post, and to quit their charge for shorter periods than usual. His Majesty, in the early access of his second attack, rejected animal food. The most nourishing diet, in every form that could be devised to tempt his appetite, was prepared for him, but seemed to fail in its purpose of sustaining or recruiting exhausted nature. A few days before his death he became almost reduced to a skeleton. The general decay to which his constitution was now subjected showed itself in the usual symptoms. It was evident that his blood was becoming torpid and chilly; for though artificial means were used to raise the temperature of his apartments, yet he continued to manifest increasing suffering from cold. Among other distressing proofs of his debility and approaching dissolution, he lost his remaining teeth: he also lost his appetite, which had been previously so hearty that it had been usual to medicate his food, in order to procure digestion, and prevent any injury from the tendency to excessive indulgence.

It was not, however, till within two days of his decease that he kept his bed entirely, though for several days previous he had not risen at his accustomed early hour.

On the night of Friday, the symptoms became so alarming, that Sir H. Halford came express to town very early on Saturday morning, and had an immediate audience of the Duke of York. The consequence was, that his royal highness's carriage was immediately ordered, and without a moment's delay he set forward with post horses for Windsor Castle. His royal highness appeared agitated as he got into the coach; and there was an air of mystery and hurry in the whole affair, which gave but too much reason to anticipate the distressing nature of Sir H. Halford's communication.

The rapid movements of official personages throughout Saturday and the preceding day strengthened the belief of the alarming crisis which His Majesty's indisposition had attained. At a late hour on Friday evening, the Earl of Liverpool set off to Windsor, where he remained the whole of the night. All the messengers of the House of Lords had been in hourly attendance upon Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, the Usher of the Black Rod, during Thursday and Friday. The fires in the House of Lords were kept regularly lighted as if the peers were sitting; and Mr. Cooper, the deputy clerk of Parliament, through whom the summonses for the immediate convocation of parliament should

issue on the demise of His Majesty, arrived in Palace-Yard at three o'clock on Saturday, rather unexpectedly. Soon after his arrival he communicated with Sir Thomas Tyrwhitt, and Mr. Quarme, the Deputy Usher of the Black Rod. The Archbishop of Canterbury was at Lambeth Palace on Saturday, having specially arrived from the country. These preparations were in consequence of the necessity that parliament must, if possible, meet on the day after the demise of the sovereign.

At ten o'clock on Saturday morning, the medical attendants, and the lords in waiting, felt assured that the last hour of the venerable sufferer was approaching, and that the day must terminate his mortal career. The last words His Majesty was heard to utter, was an application for some jelly. This was between three and four o'clock in the afternoon.

As the evening advanced, His Majesty became gradually weaker and weaker; but apparently without the slightest pain, till nature was quite exhausted; and, at thirty-five minutes past eight o'clock, he breathed his last, without suffering even a struggle.

The decay, though rapid, was unaccompanied with any violent and sudden changes; so that none of that physical excitement had occurred which sometimes, in cases of mental derangement, restores to sufferers in their last moments a transient use of their understanding, and imbitters the parting hour

with a consciousness of their late dreadful situation. Our venerable sovereign was spared this last pang: there was no returning visit of his reason, which could only have served to torture him with a sense of what he had lost, as well as what he was about to lose. It is true that, from this insensibility, he could not have the melancholy satisfaction of witnessing, at his death-bed, the filial duty of the Duke of York, who hung over his pillow with the most affectionate solicitude; but then he was saved from the anguish of missing the aged partner of his throne, his beloved grandchild, and that estimable prince whose manly virtues so nearly resembled his own.*

* Happily His Majesty was thus saved the anguish of lamenting the loss of a favorite son, in the death of the DUKE OF KENT, who expired but one little week before his venerated sire.

His royal highness was the fourth son of his present Majesty: he was tall in stature, of a manly and noble presence. His manners were affable, condescending, dignified, and engaging; his conversation animated; his information varied and copious; his memory exact and retentive; his intellectual power quick, strong, and masculine: he resembled the King in many of his tastes and propensities; he was an early riser, a close economist of his time; temperate in eating; indifferent to wine, though a lover of society; and heedless of slight indisposition, from confidence in the general strength of his constitution; a kind master, a punctual and courteous correspondent, a steady friend, and an affectionate brother. With a distaste for the boisterous and fatiguing scenes of public meetings and entertainments, he was ever present at the call of humanity, or where art or talent were to be encouraged and sustained.

At the moment of the King's dissolution there were present, besides the usual attendants, his

With lips scarcely moistened, or only moistened with water, he sat, and seemed to share the convivial excitation around him. He ever willingly sacrificed his own arrangements, when he could be useful to his fellow-creatures. To this he applied talents of no common order. He was eloquent—deeply eloquent, without seeming to have ever studied eloquence, or to be conscious that he possessed it. He never affected the passionate or figurative in public speaking, but he had the justness of perception and sentiment, which, by its precision, as well as force, ruled the assent of the hearer, and drew from him, involuntarily, an acknowledgment of his possessing the precious qualities of intelligence and goodness. He was in an eminent degree what the French, in their happily shaded manner of expression, would call *un esprit juste*.

In August, 1816, economical views led him to the continent. Here he continued, residing principally at Brussels, until May, 1818; on the twenty-ninth of which month he was married at Cobourg, according to the Lutheran rites, to his now disconsolate relict. The royal pair, shortly after the solemnity, arrived in England, and were re-married, according to the rites of the English church, at Kew Palace, on the eleventh of July, 1818. Persevering in the economical plan which he had laid down before his marriage, the duke, a few weeks after his second ceremony, returned with his royal bride to Amorbach, the residence of the Duke of Leiningen, which the duchess, who was left, by the will of her late husband, guardian of her son (a minor), and regent of the principality during his minority, had occupied as her residence during her widowhood. It was during their royal highnesses' retirement at this spot that the duchess proved to be pregnant; and as her royal highness fully concurred in the sentiments entertained by her illustrious consort, as an Englishman, that her child ought to draw its first breath on English ground, they both revisited this coun-

Royal Highness the Duke of York, Lord Henley, Lord Winchelsea, all the physicians, and General Taylor. In the Palace were the Duchess of Gloucester, and the Princesses Augusta and Sophia. The Princesses had been most unremitting in their attention.

The Duke of York, who had to the last, with perfect filial affection, and strict regard to official accuracy, performed the duty of custos of the royal person, immediately sent off a letter to his Royal Highness the Prince Regent (now King George IV.) the bearer of which was General Cartwright.

The gallant general reached Carlton-House with

try, where the duchess gave birth to a daughter, named Alexandria Victoria, who was born at Kensington Palace on the twenty-fourth of May, 1819. His royal highness, in the winter of 1820, took the duchess and their lovely offspring into Devonshire, to give them the benefit of its purer air and milder climate; and there, unhappily, he was destined to breathe his last.

The later years of the Duke of Kent were distinguished by the exercise of talents and virtues in the highest degree worthy of a beneficent prince and of an enlightened English gentleman. There was no want nor misery which he did not endeavour to relieve to the extreme limits of his embarrassed fortune. There was no public charity to which his time, his presence, his eloquence, were not willingly devoted, nor to the ends of which they did not powerfully conduce. The traces of his intercourse with the inhabitants of the great metropolis, on occasions of a salutary tendency to the morals and happiness of his poorer fellow-creatures, will never be effaced from the grateful hearts of those who saw and heard him.

his melancholy intelligence at twenty-five minutes after eleven o'clock. His royal highness had not retired to rest, and in a few moments was put in possession of the event, which, although not altogether unexpected, from the communications which he had received during the day, was, nevertheless, a severe additional pang to that which he had so recently sustained from the death of his royal brother. His royal highness seemed to be almost paralysed by the contents of the Duke of York's letter, which, although short, he could scarcely read to a conclusion. After a short interval devoted to the first burst of filial anguish, he, in some measure, recovered his self-possession; and, having conferred with General Cartwright, he sent him back with a short letter of condolence to his no less afflicted brother at Windsor. An officer of his royal highness's household was then despatched to the lord chancellor, at his residence, in Hamilton-Place, to acquaint him with the death of his old and venerable sovereign. Messengers were likewise sent off to Lord Liverpool, at Coombe Wood; to Lord Sidmouth, at Richmond Park; to Earl Bathurst, at Putney; and to all the rest of His Majesty's ministers, who were in or near town. Messengers were likewise despatched to the several branches of the royal family who had not yet been apprised of the melancholy occurrence.

In the first moments after a royal decease, it is difficult to procure all the minute particulars con-

nected with it; and even at the present moment it is not less so, inasmuch as it is highly honorable to the persons in immediate attendance upon his late Majesty, that, during the long period of his afflicting malady, or since, no disclosures concerning his domestic habits have been made by those who had the means of personal observation. An affectionate veneration for a beloved sovereign prevailed over all the temptations of idle curiosity; and no unauthorised eye had invaded the privacy of his retirement. During our lamented Queen's life, she judged it necessary to draw a strict line as to the persons who were to be admitted into the presence of the King, in order to guard against any unpleasant or imprudent communications. The most afflicting privation was that which prevented the whole of the royal family, with the exception of the Prince Regent, from approaching him; but Her Majesty in this, as well as in all other delicate public occurrences, acted from the purest motives of state prudence.

In short, notwithstanding the few particulars here inserted, for the correctness of which we may safely avouch so far as they go; yet it must be acknowledged that over the last nine years of His Majesty's life an awful veil has been drawn. In the periods of the deepest national solicitude his mind has felt no interest; in the hour of the most acute domestic feeling his eye has been tearless. Almost the last time that this venerable sovereign

was publicly seen, with some few exceptions, was on the day when his people, with one accord, devoted themselves to rejoicing, in honor of his completion of a period of his reign far beyond the common term of dominion. He was blind: but as he rode through the assembled thousands of his subjects, his countenance was dilated by the goodness and the rapture of his heart: he was, indeed, the object of every one's veneration and love. In a few weeks one of the most afflicting domestic calamities he had ever experienced bowed him to the dust. The anguish of the father was too great for a wounded spirit to bear: in his mental suffering his reason forsook him, and it never returned.

But the final scene is now over; briefly, then, we shall throw together a few of the observations which the interest of the case has excited in almost every breast, and drawn from almost every pen.

First, then, we may observe, that the present age has not done justice to the King's abilities. His conversation in public was sometimes light and superficial; but he often had a purpose in such dialogue, and as often entered into it to relieve himself from the weight of superior thoughts. The King taking exercise, and amusing himself with those about him, and the King in the cabinet, were two different men. In the discussion of public affairs, he was astonishingly fluent and acute; and his habits of business enabled him to refer with ease to the bearings of every subject. His successive ministers have each borne testimony to the dignity

of his manners, as well as the readiness of his address, when he put on the character of the sovereign. Nothing which was submitted to him was passed over with indifference or haste. Every paper which came under his eye contained marks of his observation; and the notes, which he almost invariably inserted in the margin, were remarkable as well for the strong sense as the pithiness of their character.

His moral and religious character was above all praise. It infinitely exceeded what might have been expected from the age in which he lived; from the circumstances under which he was formed; and from the court and characters by which he was surrounded. It appears almost to have been a felicity rather than a merit, if such rare virtue in any case can be termed a gift of fortune, and should not be more properly denominated the peculiar gift and grace of Heaven. We feel it perfectly unnecessary to enter into any particulars upon this head. In no other instance was his right and sound judgment so well manifested as in his religious and moral habits. He believed the truth of Christianity with his whole heart and mind; and as he thus acknowledged its value and importance, he applied himself with his characteristic prudence to hold fast, and to ensure, the immortal treasure. His whole life, and almost every day of it, was passed under the remembrance and consciousness of his being an accountable being, and one who was indebted to Providence for a long course of happiness.

This is a part of his character, which every one must remember with the like feelings,—and in which every wise and good Englishman will rejoice to recognise his own sentiments and character, represented so justly and so strongly in the splendid and conspicuous example of his late sovereign.

Having thus recapitulated a few of the passing tributes to his memory, for words are even wanting to pencil new sketches, so varied and so numerous have been the offerings of loyalty upon the royal bier, we shall draw towards a close with one or two historical recollections, not undeserving of notice, from the curious coincidences connected with them.

It has been accurately observed, that the three longest reigns in British history are those of three Kings, each the third of their respective names. Henry III. reigned fifty-six years; Edward III. fifty-one; and George III. fifty-nine. This circumstance is beautifully alluded to in the following lines, which are at once an accurate and an appropriate eulogy on his late Majesty:

> "Chaste, pious, stedfast, merciful, and just,
> His pride, his people—and his God, his trust;
> To the third George approving Heaven ordain'd
> A life unblemish'd, and a death unpain'd;
> In goodness, greatness, years, his reign exceeds
> Henry's mild life, and Edward's laurell'd deeds."

It is also a fact, equally curious, that the reigns of the three first Edwards should have occupied a space of time considerably exceeding a century; and that the reigns of the three first Georges should also have occupied a similar period.

Edward I. ascended the throne on the 16th Nov. 1272.
Edward II. ..... 7th July, 1307.
Edward III..... 21st Sept. 1327.

This last monarch died on the 28th of June, 1377.

The three Edwards ruled England for one hundred and four years, seven months, and twelve days.

George I. was declared King on the 1st August, 1714.
George II. ..... 11th June, 1727.
George III. ..... 25th Oct. 1760.

As the reign of the late King terminated on Saturday, the 29th of January, 1820, the time which was occupied by the reigns of the three George's was one hundred and five years, five months, and twenty-nine days.

If we were called on for a character of the venerated monarch thus departed, we could but reply in the words of Sir Christopher Wren's epitaph—"Si monumentum quæris, Circumspice." In the wealth, happiness, and power of Britain, may indeed be seen his monumental character: to those, and to the biographical traits here recorded, we would refer our answer.

But still it may be asked, what have been the advantages of the reign of George the Third—of a reign the greatest part of which has been a scene of internal contest, or foreign warfare?

To this it may be shortly answered, that after some of the most expensive wars that ever shook the empire of Britain, her political and commercial relations have been extended in every quarter, and maintained with inflexible integrity—her oriental

acquisitions, forming of themselves an opulent kingdom, and compensating for her retrocessions in the west—new channels for commerce, presenting themselves in the remotest regions to British enterprise—additional markets, procured for an increased exportation of our manufactures, advanced during this auspicious reign from fifteen to fifty millions; while the imports bear a quintuple proportion to their amount at its commencement; employing near two millions of tons of shipping in her commerce, and more than eight hundred ships of war in her defence; and to crown the exhilarating prospect, the progressive liquidation of her national debt: all these, and more, notwithstanding the clamor of the moment, will be found to be within the scope of our inexhaustible resources. Nor is this all that may be replied to the querist, to whose recollection it must be brought that the late reign embraces the history of the human race for more than half a century. The wars, the treaties, the triumphs, and defeats of England, were felt by every people, whether civilized or savage, throughout the inhabited world. The peace of 1763 gave North America to Great Britain, and laid the foundation of the war through which she lost it. By the peace of 1783, she gave it up for ever. Under the guidance of George III. she held fast by the laws and religion of her ancestors, and escaped the vortex of the French revolution, on the edge of which she stood. She gained an empire in the heart of Asia more extensive than that which had been torn from her

in the west—ten times beyond it in wealth and population—more abundant in all things but spirit and enterprise, and capacity of progressive greatness. The mass of our maritime and commercial power has been reinforced by many accessions. Ceylon, the Mauritius, and the Cape of Good Hope, are master links in that unbroken chain, which moors the Peninsula of India to this island. The fortresses which command the whole face of the Mediterranean are our own. The separate legislature of Ireland was abolished under our late sovereign. Under him the penal laws against Catholics were repealed; and with the perfect right of property, that extensive body of our fellow Christians acquired a considerable share of political power. So far as depended on British legislation, the people of Africa were by George III. released from the most cruel bondage that ever disgraced mankind, or insulted the divinity. By the inspirations of his fortitude, Englishmen maintained a contest for human liberty unparalleled in the records of war. By their example other countries were roused; and the nations of Europe, combined in one sacred cause, overthrew in a moment that oppressive power against which the repeated alliances of their rulers had proved unequal to defend them.

Such are a few of the important facts, which future historians will record of the

REIGN OF GEORGE THE THIRD.

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